METRO / A17
Man accuses actor Edu Manzano of beating him up in Pasig

SPORTS / A21
Mexican bettors start junking countryman Erik Morales

BUSINESS / B1
9-month OFW remittances up 14.4% at $9.11B

NEWS / A2
Salceda blocks PB-B compensation for martial law victims

ENTERTAINMENT / E1
TomKat wedding on Saturday in 12th century castle outside Rome

Study reveals 9 secrets on how to live up to 85

ORIGAO—A STRONG grip, a high level of education, a good marriage and a lean body are among the keys to a long life for middle-aged men who'd like to grow old in good health, a US study showed.

STORY, A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, November 16, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 350 P18 www.inq7.com

Cebu gov: Center venue of some Asean meetings

By Christine O. Avendaño in Manila
Jhanene Napallacan and Irene R. Sino-Cruz, Inquirer Visayas

BANKING ON THE WORD OF CEBU'S TOP OFFICIAL, Malacañang yesterday said leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and their dialogue partners would be meeting next month at the Cebu International Convention

CEBU GOV, A14

GRINGO CAPTURED

Ex-senator tries to scale fence after jumping from roof to roof

By Alcuin Papa

WHEN HE HEARD POLICE coming, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan crept out of a second floor window of a unit in the Enclave Townhouses, hop-scotched on the roof of other units, leaped to the ground and attempted to scale a wall before finally being cornered.

The end of the road for the wily former senator and Army colonel came at 2:45 a.m. yesterday to the townhouse complex on Greenmeadows Avenue in Quezon City nearly nine months after he disappeared following an alleged coup attempt in February.

Age apparently had caught up with the 58-year-old Honasan when agents from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested him in the townhouse owned by Ingrid Ramos, who police said was a former secretary of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Honasan sustained a deep wound on the side of his right foot and fractured the other, according to police accounts of the arrest in the townhouse compound beside the Christ the King Church just outside the

GRINGO, A8

"NO ORDINARY PERSON," the Palace has described former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who, however like any ordinary suspect, goes through the process of having his mug shot taken at Camp Crame after his capture in the early morning hours of Wednesday. Honasan is one of the suspected plotters of the alleged coup attempt last February.

'We watched the woman, Ingrid Ramos'

By Fe Zamora

FAR FROM THE ELABORATE LIFESTYLE he had led while on the run years ago, former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan had been hiding mostly in his mother's house in Marikina, a source from the joint police-military arrest team said yesterday.

Since April, Honasan had been "monitored" in the house in Industrial Valley, where he would also admit visitors whenever his family was away, according to the source.

Instead of raiding the Honasan home, the team assigned to the former senator opted to "tail" one of the visitors, who turned out to be a certain Ingrid Ramos. The surveillance team did not raid the Honasan family home in deference to his widowed mother.

"We watched the woman," the source said.

Honasan was captured only Wednes-

WE WATCHED, A8

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF: In a townhouse at the Enclave on Greenmeadows Ave., QC, Honasan climbs the roof, jumps on the roofs of 3 other houses and tries to scale the fence.

Palace says Honasan, Ang good omens

MALACAÑANG SEES THE CAPTURE OF former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and the extradition of Charlie "Atong" Ang from the United States as good omens for the administration's chances in the congressional and local elections scheduled for May.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita acknowledged that Malacañang could use the capture of Honasan and extradition of Ang for political purposes.

"It's possible," Ermita said when asked whether the administration would use Ang's knowledge of the unsolved kara-

PALACE, A8

People Power I propelled him to prominence

GREGORIO "GRINGO" HONASAN BECAME a household name in the aftermath of the 1986 People Power Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The dashing figure also became the "heartthrob" of the revolution.

Honasan led members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) that planned to lead an assault on Malacañang and establish a military junta to be led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

But a RAM defector informed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ver of the impending coup, enabling him to fortify the Palace, forcing the rebel troops to hole up in Camp Aguinaldo.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin summoned Filipinos to protest the

PEOPLE, A8

From Viva Las Vegas to QC jail

DEATH TRAP! Atong Ang, led by NBI agents, is committed to the Quezon City jail where the justice department says puts his life in danger. The jail has provided an extra 15 guards and security cameras. Ang is detained with 191 inmates in a basement cell.

By Norman Bordadora and Leila B. Salaverria

FROM A HIGH-FLYING GAMBLER WHO stayed at luxury hotels in Las Vegas to a detainee in an overcrowded jail in Quezon City.

Such is the fate of Charlie "Atong" Ang, a suspect in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

At his arraignment yesterday, the Sandiganbayan denied his request that he be committed to the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) jail in Manila where he had stayed since his extradition from the United States on Nov. 10.

Ang is the first accused in the Estrada plunder case to be committed to the city jail.

Ang, whom Estrada appointed as "consultant" on state-sponsored gambling, was instead committed to the anti-graft court's custodial facility at the Quezon City Jail where he would remain

FROM, A11

UNTANGLING THE RSBS MESS

AFP chief-comptroller 'cozy' ties root of all evils

By Fe Zamora

(Last of four parts)

WHEN ANGELO REYES SERVED AS chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (July 1999-March 2001) and then as defense secretary (March 1999 to August 2001), his son Marc was also the spectacles manager of Public Securities Corp. (PSC), a stockbrokerage owned by the AFP Retirement and Separations Benefits System (AFP-RSBS).

The iconic Marc F. Reyes, with address at BND (Secretary of National Defense) quarters appeared in documents that the PSC submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2001 and 2002.

The appointment of the young Reyes apparently did not raise eyebrows among the RSBS staff who through the years had become familiar, if not comfortable, with the all-encompassing powers of the AFP chief of staff over RSBS policies, appointments and the investment of the soldiers' contributions.

SPECIAL REPORT

Presidential Decree No. 361, the law that created the RSBS, provided that the RSBS "shall be administered by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines through an agency, group, committee or board, which may be created and organized by him subject to such rules and regulations governing the same as he may, subject to approval of the Secretary of National Defense, promulgate from time to time."

Even former AFP chiefs of staff continue to have a strong grip on the RSBS.

A middle-level RSBS official recalled

AFP CHIEF, A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FOR JULY: Fullness Northeast winds Tropical disturbance will not pass clouds rains with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms occurring widespread rains over the Southern southern of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

Source: PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail us at ... Please send your feedback to inquirer.com.ph/... (Globe) or 581 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Central Mindanao	Cloudy with rain
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rain
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rain
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rain
Iloilo	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rain
Cebu	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rain
Kalibo	Partly cloudy	Puerto Princesa	Cloudy with rain
Tagbilaran	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rain
Dumaguete	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rain

Human rights payment bill flawed, says solon

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN INFLUENTIAL ADMINISTRATION congressman yesterday warned that the bill that would authorize the payment of P8 billion to victims of human rights abuses under the Marcos regime did not pass through the House appropriations committee—a serious "procedural lapse" that could mean that even if the bill is passed into law, there will be no money to implement it.

"This constitutes a serious procedural omission from student years," said Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the powerful House appropriations committee which conducts hearings and submits the government's yearly budget for plenary approval.

Salceda also asserted that because of this flaw, the much-publicized bill which is expected to benefit 9,539 documented human rights victims of martial law, could be questioned before the Supreme Court by the Marcos family. The money to pay the victims, who want $2 billion class suit against the Marcoses in Hawaii in 1995, is part of $683 million in Marcos funds recovered from Swiss banks.

House Bill No. 5313 authorizes the "legal liability since it didn't go through the House committee on appropriations even by way of a formal waiver," Salceda stressed in text message.

The bill, which limits "compensable victims" to those who suffered human rights violations from 1972 up to 1986, was passed by the House in June after a lengthy debate in the House committee on human rights. The Senate subsequently enacted its own version, paving the way for the convening of a bicameral committee which has yet to reconcile disagreeing provisions of both versions.

The proposed law would set up a compensation board that would determine how much can be rich the claimants, depending on the gravity of the abuse suffered.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, chair of the committee on human rights and principal author of the measure, countered in a text message to reporters that the measure had already been agreed upon "between the executive and house, with the full agreement of the House leadership."

Rosales' "The Presidential Commission on Good Government has had more than P60 billion for the bamers. The original House bill was $200 or about P9.85 billion ... Last minute, they told me to bring it down to P8 billion," responded Rosales.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, co-author of the measure, in the House, questioned Salceda's timing in bringing up the procedural point. "Why are they raising it just now? Are they saying that the funds are no longer there? They have to explain that to the people." Maza added that the so-called procedural lapse was just "legal and procedural semantic hassles."

"If the government has the political will to really compensate the victims and acknowledge the atrocities committed by the Marcos dictatorship, then it should exhaust all means possible to finally serve justice to the victims."

But Salceda stuck to his point. Just the setting up of a compensation board needs a budget, he said.

He said "It may make more sense for the measure to revert back to the House and go through the process," adding that the committee would "immediately consider and approve the measure."

The other "legally feasible way" is an interim/gen 2007 General Appropriations Act but this would dislodge spending for other equally critical policies," said Salceda.

Rebel officers hurt in big rush to court

By Gloria Pazzy Bagayo

FIVE OFFICERS OF THE ELITE Fort Bonni Bangui Regiment linked to the February coup plot were injured in a road accident last Monday as Army escorts rushed to bring them to a hearing at the Department of Justice in Manila.

Maj. Lorenzo Zenaidro broke his right arm while Lt. Col. Nestor Pimentel, Lt. Col. Edmundo Malabanjar, Maj. Oriel Pangyng and Maj. Lance Andrew suffered bruises, according to Aguinis's lawyer Dino Arboleda Jr.

The officers, who did not make it in the DOJ hearing, were not brought to a hospital because their concern claimed they had no insurance from their commanders, Arboleda said.

An Army spokesman's presence confirmed the incident.

Maj. Erasmo Torres initially said the incident report submitted to the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio showed that no one was injured in the incident.

But in a later text message, he said Zenaidro suffered an "arm injury."

The five officers, however, were escorted out of their detention facility in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, past 8 a.m. because the guards were "confused with several conflicting orders," according to Arboleda.

The officers were hastily stuffed to the truck's seats and they were drenched in the rain, he said. Lim was left behind.

"Since they were already late [by the hearing], the driver of the Army truck driver like he[his] a vain attempt to reach Bonifacio from Tanay, Rizal, to hasten their arrival," Arboleda said.

Brake problems

"The army vehicle was actually left behind because it could not catch up with the truck. Eventually, as a result of rush on Edsa[sic], [upon] reaching the Edsa flyover going to Pasay, the Army truck collided with a Mitsubishi Pajero and a taxi, damaging both vehicles," he added.

Torres, however, said the accident occurred because the truck had a "problem with its brakes."

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Bishop faces gay wrath for fighting pro-gay bill

By Philip C. Tubeza

A GAY RIGHTS GROUP YESTERDAY CONdemned Manila Bay. Bienvenido Abante, who is also a bishop of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church, for opposing a bill penalizing discrimination against lesbian, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBTs).

The Lesbian and Gay Legislative Advocacy Network (LAGLAB) (Philippines) lambasted Abante, urging him to resign as chair of the House committee on human rights for "his homophobia and atrocious ignorance of the basic principles of human rights."

Abante had opposed the passage of House Bill 4237 or the "Anti Prohibiting Discrimination on Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Providing Penalties Thereof."

The group said that Abante's "ridiculous opposition" to a human rights measure like the Anti-Discrimination Bill "betrays a fundamental disregard and disrespect of his mandate as the human rights representative" of Congress.

"We should resign from his position if he himself cannot grasp the universality of human rights and human dignity. How can he promote human rights when he has no sense of empathy and compassion?" said Jonas Bagas, LAGLAB secretary general.

Human rights 101

"He should also undergo human rights orientation to understand that in our Constitution and in various international human rights agreements that the Philippines signed, equal protection from discrimination is guaranteed for all, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity," he added.

Abante earned the ire of the LGBTs after he questioned the sponsorship speech of Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales for the bill before the plenary on Tuesday.

Abante, during the question-and-answer period of Congressmember's Privilege speech on this, because I find it very unethical, Mr. Speaker, I am the chair of the committee on human rights [but] I am not even aware of this bill," Abante had said.

He later succeeded in having the House suspend the consideration of the bill, which was passed by the House human rights committee when Rosales was still its chair.

Grave lie

Bagas said it was the second time Abante blocked the passage of the bill by claiming that it would promote "same-sex marriage."

"But that is not ever mentioned in the proposed law. The Anti-Discrimination Bill will not allow for the legal recognition of same-sex marriage. It is only about curbing discriminatory practices and policies. To claim otherwise is a blatant lie and a deliberate," Bagas said.

He added that not all religious people or religious organizations "are as bigoted as Rep. Abante."

"During the 13th Congress, the bill was supported by other religious organizations, specifically the MCCP-UCCP and Iglesia ni Kristo," he said. LAGLAB also noted that there are religious denominations that are opposed to homosexuality, but are nonetheless in solidarity with the LGBT community in protecting their rights and freedoms," Bagas said.

Necessary bill

He added that other human rights organizations supporting the bill included Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists.

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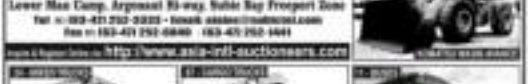

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1st woman Episcopal bishop joins int'l clamor vs RP killings

THE FIRST FEMALE PRESIDING BISHOP OF the 2.3-million-member Episcopal Church of the United States has joined the growing international clamor for the Arroyo administration to put a stop to the alarming spate of political killings in the Philippines.

And the foreign chambers of commerce and the world's leading apparel brands, in an unprecedented move earlier this week, sent their own statements of concern over reports circulated by human rights groups that more than 700 activists and journalists have been gunned down since Macapagal-Arroyo took power in January 2001. Reports have it that the US ambassador has also directly expressed concern over the matter to the Philippine government.

The 52-year-old Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who holds a doctorate in oceanography as well as a divinity degree, was consecrated as bishop at the Philippine Embassy in the US that aired concern over the political killings.

In a statement carried by the Episcopal News Service, Schori said that "the advancement of human rights and religious freedom is an integral part of development."

Both Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and Justice Ministries, and Rev. Dr. Fred Wegner, national ministries for Asian American Ministries had told ambassador Willy Gue that the US Christian denomination "are fully supporting our partner churches in the Philippines in their prayers to discourage these human rights violations."

"The Episcopal Church is fully engaging in this issue," said Gutierrez, who is set to visit the country next month.

The USD may also separate that Gutierrez and Arroyo had asked the US Senate Department and were assured that US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney was "grossly concerned about the issue and has been very direct in expressing her concern to the Philippine government."

In a media briefing at the Palace, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he has appealed to the militant groups that "patience," while charging that leftist groups were exaggerating the problem by "lumping all killings as politically motivated even though most of them were triggered by other causes such as jealousy or revenge or robbery."

The human rights group Karapatan, however, said it was compiling by its report that 700 political killings have occurred since 2001.

The Inquirer's own count of enumeration of activists is about 250.

Ermita said he has ordered the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Embassy in the killings in brief the foreign investors on government moves to solve the problem. Christian V. Esguerra and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PAL, MIAA settle dispute over fees

By Veli Cimbreras

A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT TO SETTLE almost P1 billion in unpaid fees has ended a six-year-old legal battle between the Manila International Airport Authority and Philippine Airlines.

PAL has committed to pay its seven years a total of P259 billion in aeronautical fees charged by the MIAA from Dec. 1, 1995 to March 31, 2006, the aviation agency said in a statement issued yesterday.

The airline will pay P34.9 million per month, the MIAA added.

PAL had long disputed the collection of such fees, arguing that it was exempt from payment under Presidential Decree No. 1590 which named PAL as the country's flag carrier.

MIAA, however, contended that aeronautical fees were not included among the charges waived under the decree.

MIAA pursued for payment in a civil case filed against PAL in April 2000 before the Pasay City Regional Trial Court. The case was later elevated to the Court of Appeals.

Aeronautical fees cover the taxes charged for aircraft landing and take-off, parking, as well as tackling (attaching the passenger tube to the aircraft) and lighting charges.

"This is a major milestone in MIAA's collection history," said the agency's general manager Alfonso Cusi.

The amicable settlement could be considered "an affirmation of the private sector's confidence in the leadership and programs of this government," the official stressed.

"The payments will help us pursue our mandate under the MIAA Charter and Executive Order No. 341 which gives MIAA operational supervision and control over other airport authorities in the Philippines," Cusi added.

The agreement takes effect upon its execution and final approval by the appellate court.

There was no comment from the airline.

Another Fil-Am slain in Iraq

Corrections

IN THE NEWS IN BRIEF, a front-page sidebar—"Largest mass kidnap in Baghdad: 100 vanish daily"—misspelled the capital of Iraq. The capital is Baghdad—not Bagdhad.

* * *

ON THE INSIDE PAGE, a photo caption misnamed the dimension of the private beach in Shangri-La Mactan's Island Resort and Spa. The length of the beach is 300 meters—not 300 square meters.

* * *

ON THE INSIDE PAGE, a photo caption and photo credit misstated the name of the organization that discovered last year's live baby whale shark in Mindoro. **The organization is World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines**—not World Wild Fund-Philippines.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors or wording in the Star Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Chino Roces Avenue corner Alexander Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4150/98; e-mail address: star.desk@inquirer.com.ph.

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ERRATUM

We regret that in the publication of SUN 9/30 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer Nov. 4, 2006 issue, the district of **"Tiny"** was erroneously spelled as **"Tinny."** due to a typographical error. Our apologies.

AFP chief-comptroller 'cozy' ties root …

From page A1

low staff members had tried to convince their colleagues to stop Brig. Gen. Jose Ilustrisimo, Jr., from giving loans to former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generalo Aboitiz, "He'd call each other, Bok, pigi ka nu (stop him). But we were helpless," the officer recalled.

'Willing patsy'

The Senate blue ribbon committee report said Ilustrisimo was a "willing patsy" for Aboitiz, his classmate at the Philippine Military Academy.

Ilustrisimo, a former AFP comptroller, was **president of the RSBS from 1994 to 1998,** practically serving four AFP chiefs of staff: starting with Aboitiz from April 1993 to April 1994; Gen. Arturo Enrile, from April 1994 to Nov. 28, 1995; Gen. Arnulfo Acedera, from **November 1995 to Dec. 31, 1997;** and Gen. Clemencio Mariano, from Dec. 31, 1997 to July 3, 1998.

Only Mercado initiates probe

Ilustrisimo had also served three duties concurrently, starting with Ramon de Villa, from July 26, 1991 to Sept. 15, 1997; Aleksandra Abat, from Sept. 16, 1997 to June 30, 1998; and Orlando Mercado, the only civilian defense chief who initiated an investigation of RSBS transactions. Ilustrisimo stepped down as RSBS president in 1998.

Retired officers were also hired as **managers or directors of RSBS subsidiaries and affiliate companies,** among them **former Brig. Gen. Jesus A Dudan and** Brig. Gen. Manuel Mallana who were the

RAMISCAL, if only he would talk.

REYES. No controversy cited.

chair and the president of Seismic Lt. General Alberto A. Filler and PNP Director Ilustrisimo. Dudan, who were the chair and managing director of Greenhills Manufacturing Corp., and Lt. Gen. Luis San Andres, president of Robles Lisk which had Ramiscal as chair.

Ramiscal was also the chair of RSBS Enterprises Inc.; RSBS Land Inc., Realco, Public Secretaries Corp., Makati Realty Development Corp., and Centennial Savings Bank. He was also the vice chair of Mayflower and director of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Former AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ismael Villareal, who replaced Ramiscal in 1998, also sat as chair of Soonfil Manufacturing Corp., Bay Investors Development Corp., and the Riviera Golf and Country Club. He was **was also the vice chair of Centennial** Savings Bank, Mayflower Land Inc. and **the RSBS Board of Trustees.** In addition, he was a member of the board of the Ali Asia Capital.

The Senate blue ribbon committee recommended the prosecution of Aboitiz and Ramiscal for corrupt practices in granting and securing special favors to favored RSBS subsidiaries and affiliates. The Senate committee also recommended the prosecution of Ramiscal and several other officers for offenses ranging from graft to double compensation.

Military structure

Retired Brig. Gen. Jose Commendador said the "cozy relations" between the **AFP chief of staff and the comptroller** developed at the AFP headquarters was the "root" of the mismanagement at the RSBS.

Commendador cited the case of the late Brig. Gen. Jacinto Gutang, who was a comptroller under then Gen. Fidel V. Ramos prior to his assignment as RSBS president from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. Commendador noted that the arrangement was repeated when Ramiscal was named to the post.

Ramiscal was also a nonprofessional under Aboitiz and Enrile, who were both biochemists at the PMA.

"If you study the people who are managing the RSBS, you will see its management was from G2(s). It's the same military structure," Commendador said.

Milking cow

"The RSBS eventually became a milking cow," Commendador said.

And during the elections in 1992 and 1998, rumors about the RSBS money funding the presidential candidacy of Ramos and the senatorial bid of Aboitiz had also spread among the AFP rank and file. "That explained why Ramos lost in the military camps," a retired general said. Ramos won the presidency in 1992, while Aboitiz lost his senatorial bid in 1998.

Good in combat but…

Lawyer Glenn Rabaya, former director of the **Asset office of the International** Security Association, said it was **important that the generals serve down.**

"They were good in combat, but not in the area of investment. They were not trained to the management of billions of pesos. What can you expect from this group? And then become prey to temptation."

Rabaya welcomed the plan to replace the RSBS with a real pension plan for the military. But he had some reservations. "If the new system will have soldiers and generals running the show, what will happen?" Rabaya said.

12th National Assembly For Diabetes Educators

Fight Diabetes!

DIABETES UPDATE 2006
Focus: **Kidneys / Hypertension**

Nov. 28, 2006, 7:00am - 5:00pm Century Park Hotel, Manila

7:00 - 8:00 Registration
8:00 - 8:30 Opening Ceremonies

8:30 - 9:45 **SYMPOSIUM I**
Chairperson: **Dr. Jose Carlos Miranda**

The Kidney in Health and in Disease

The Physiology of Renal Function/How the Kidneys works - relevant data on which the pathology works in diabetes
Dr. Eladio Miguel Pobre-aonio

The Diabetic Kidneys
(How Diabetes Affects the Kidneys?)
Dr. Jocelyn Jacoba-Waddimel

9:45 - 10:15 Opening of Exhibits/Visits to Booth/Snacks

10:45 - 11:30 **SYMPOSIUM II**
Chairperson: **Dr. Susan Yu-Gan**

Hypertension in Health and in Disease

What is responsible for the normal BP?
Why does the BP go up?
Dr. Ivy H. Amante

Management of Diabetic Hypertension
(Role of calcium channel inhibitor/alpha/beta/renin-ang. Syst. (thyroblocker/metabolic, ACE inhibitors, ARBs, alpha beta blockers)
Dr. Tommy A. Ty Willing

11:30 - 1:30 **CORBRIDGE LUNCH SYMPOSIUM**
Chairperson: **Dr. Tommy A. Ty Willing**
Salutation and Micro-albuminuria **Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua**

1:30 - 2:00 Visits to Booths

2:00 - 3:45 **SYMPOSIUM III**
Chairperson: **Dr. Leland Gail Magtoto**

Management of the Diabetic Kidneys

Diet for the Renal Patient
Ms. Celeste C. Tourbusa RND

Medical Therapy
(Including current during advanced renal disease)
Dr. Hosalina S. Gomez

Considerations for Dialysis and Renal Transplant
When? / In Whom?
Preparation: Psychological and medical
Dr. Jay C. Fonacello

3:45 - 5:15 Visits to Booths/Snacks

5:15 - 7:00 **SPECIAL LECTURE**
Chairperson: **Dr. Thelma D. Crisostomo**

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Senate hails 3 'Heroes of Asia'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE YESTERDAY HAILED former President Corazon Aquino, Philippine Daily Inquirer founding chair Eugenia Duran-Apostol and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc for their well-deserved honor of being named Heroes of Asia.

The Senate adopted Senate Resolution 3008 authored by Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Franklin Drilon "expressing the Philippine Senate's acclamation" for the international recognition accorded by Time Magazine for the three courageous ladies in its cover story "50 Years of Asian Heroes."

"Whereas, the global recognition conferred by these distinguished ladies fairly honor conferred, are still very much desired in these times of managing expression of press freedom and human rights, rampant cheating in electoral exercises, subsidized corruption and decaying moral values among leaders of the country," it said.

Aside from Osmeña and Drilon, the resolution was signed by Senate President Manuel Villar, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Alfredo Lim, Ralph Recto, Joker Arroyo, Pia Cayetano, Juan Ponce Enrile, Teofisto Guingona, Jinggoy Estrada and Mar Roxas.

In its 2006 anniversary issue, Time featured Aquino on its cover and recognized her for her role as the "symbol of People Power."

She was among the handful of "nation builders" that include Ghandi, Sung Yun Sun Myl, Deng Xiaoping, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Lee Kuan Yew.

The Senate noted that Aquino and Magsanoc were recognized as among the five Asian heroes, including Mother Teresa, "who have provided inspiration to the people, particularly for setting the templates for courageous journalism."

Also listed in Time's '50 Years of Asian Heroes' were Dalai Lama, Ruhollah Khomeini and Deng Xiaoping.

Crocs to be deported

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE MANILA CROCODILE TEAR passed through several airports before being caught at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Tuesday may have to take another flight back home soon.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is seeking to return the reptile's crocodile to Cambodia, where the endangered species resides.

The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) requires the receiving party to return illegally traded wildlife to the country of origin unless the country of origin declines the offer.

The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, which sits as the CITES secretariat in the Philippines, will coordinate with its counterpart in Cambodia to ask if the country wanted to "repatriate" the crocodiles, PAWB chief Mundita Lim said.

"We have to be very careful in keeping such species because they are not endemic. We don't want them to breed and displace our local species, the ecosystem and the premises," Lim said in a phone interview.

The three crocodiles, each 1.5 feet long, were caught in the hand-carried luggage of a businessman from Pandakan, who declared the luggage as fish until Customs officers saw the reptiles wiggling on the handbag.

The crocodiles are now in the wildlife rescue center in Quezon City where they would be checked for injuries and kept there until Cambodia decides what to do with them.

If Cambodia does not want them back then we have to find a zoological park here. They cannot be released into the wild because they will compete for food and resources with our local species, and we want to preserve our ecosystem," Lim said.

She said the government could release the crocodiles to the zoos in Manila, Subic, Mindanao or Malabon.

Initial investigation showed that the crocodiles imported by businessman Rodgier Yu Candilo were intended as gifts, but it was not clear for whom.

The Guinecuta are in the dappertile 1 of the CITES, which means their trade should be limited for scientific purposes only, Lim said.

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Cebu gov: Center venue of some ...

From page A1

Center (CICC) as originally planned.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia had assured him that the P458-million center would be ready in time for the 12th Asean summit and other related meetings, which the Philippine government will be hosting in Cebu on Dec. 10-14.

In Cebu City Garcia stressed that the CICC would remain the venue of some, not all, of the more 40 meetings already scheduled.

Asked whether Garcia gave a date on when the convention would be completed, Ermita said she did not.

"She categorically stated (that the convention center) will be finished to be able to serve as the venue for the Asean summit," he told reporters.

Foreign news agency reports quoted PSF Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. as saying on Tuesday that there was a last-minute switch to venue because of delays in the completion of the CICC. The official spoke at a forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Razon had said that the summit would be held instead at the Shangri-La Marian Hotel or nearby Marian Island. He later corrected his statement and told the reporters that some activities would be held at the CICC and other hotels.

GOING NOWHERE? Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia rides the conveyor of the escalator of the P458-M Cebu International Convention Center but ride the stairs, leaders behind the preparations for the Asean meeting say the building can't be finished on time as the venue of the leaders' summit as originally planned. But the Palace says otherwise on Garcia's say-so.

Other venues

While the main activities will be held on Dec. 11-13, several senior ministers' meetings will start on Dec. 6, when the CICC is expected to be officially open, Garcia said.

However, Garcia could not say yet which meetings would be held at the CICC. The officials or ministers will shuttle Pulo Plaza and Waters, from Cebu City Hotel and Casino, both in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City, and the Shangri-La Marian Island Resort, where the leaders' summit will be held on Dec. 11.

Organizers said the East Asia Summit, the signing of the documents and the press conference of Presidents Arroyo and Aquino on the last day would be held at the CICC.

Government preparations for the summit were taken up during Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, but Ermita maintained that any plan to change the venue was not discussed.

"Unless an official source is given the Pressdixit on the status of the CICC, it continues to be weaved on," he said.

Public skepticism

Construction of Cebu's newest facility on a 28,000-square-meter lot began on April 23. The building has a floor area of 27,000 square meters and an annex used for exhibitions and events.

From the start, many people have expressed skepticism that it would be completed in time for the Asean summit. Architect Manuel Cuaresma, who designed the center, earlier said it would be completed by Nov. 15 because the summit would be using pre-fabricated components.

Since last week, Mr. Arroyo and Ermita have been saying that Garcia had assured them that she could meet the provincial government's "self-imposed deadline" to finish the CICC on Nov. 15—which was yesterday.

The other day, Garcia told Cebu-based journalists that the deadline was "self-imposed."

After an inspection of the facility yesterday afternoon, she said: "I am very comfortable with what I'm seeing. We are now on finishing touches and from would not take months and months."

She said landscaping, installation of streetlights, seats on the VIP terminal and other activities were still ongoing.

'Substantially completed'

"In I've said, we have very, very substantially completed the facilities here, considering the very short time we have been given. This is, in fact, a monumental feat and the Gobiernos have shown what they are capable of," she said.

The local chief executive expressed dismay over reports that the Asean meetings would be transferred to Shangri-La's Marian Island Resort and Spa. She said Ermita had even called her up because he was also confused by the report.

"The national government is the organizer and they did not even know about it," Garcia pointed out.

Ermita said the governor had told him that the project needed an additional budget to complete its construction.

More funds

"From the initial amount of P450 million, she said that maybe you can add anywhere from 10-15 percent so that its construction can be completed," Ermita told reporters.

He said he did not know where Garcia would source the funding for the extra costs, but he added that the national government would surely provide solutions.

Ernesto Vernon, head of the provincial project management office, claimed that the building was 100 percent complete. But he said what was only being done now were lifting works to smooth ceilings and walls, and finishing the installation of air-conditioning ducts.

The electrical works are 99-percent complete, he said. All these would be finished in three to four days, he added.

After these works, Vernon said carpet would be laid at the plenary hall, the leaders' room, the conversation and the hallways. This could take seven to eight days, he said.

Foreign delegates

Milben Maquiling, the summit's National Organizing Committee (NOC) assistant secretary general for media communications, affirmed Garcia's statement about the CICC as among the reason in reaction to Razon's reported remarks.

Maquiling said that contrary to the report, the foreign delegates did not express any concerns about the completion of the CICC. He said he was there when the representatives from the Asean countries visited the center last week, and they were very happy on the works being done.

Razon misquoted?

In an interview with a Cebu radio station, Razon yesterday clarified that he had no authority to speak with regard to the issues summit. Razon said he was not the designated head of Task Force Asean but Deputy Director General Atilio La Peña, PSF deputy chief for operations.

A PSF memo release, dated June 2, 2006, said that "PSF Chief, Director General Arturo C. Lomibao, has issued Letter of Instruction 09-06 creating Task Force Asean Summit under PSF Gen Avelino Razon Jr."

Razon maintained that the foreign media had misquoted him about the change of summit venue.

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8.1 quake in Pacific triggers tsunami warning

TOKYO—A MASSIVE earthquake struck the southern Pacific Ocean Wednesday triggering fears of tsunami waves from Japan to Canada to Indonesia, officials said.

The earthquake registered a major 8.3 on the Richter scale some 800 kilometers southeast of Japan's main northern island of Hokkaido, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The area where the quake hit is isolated, with the Russian and Japanese Kuril islands to land chain the closest populated area.

Japan issued warnings for all of its east coast from Tokyo northward, saying that seismic waves of up to one meters could strike the shore.

But the first tsunami known to hit the coast was a mere 40 centimeters. It struck the northeastern Japanese town of Nemuro at 9:42 pm, 87 minutes after the earthquake.

However, Japanese officials warned that the threat was not over. In Tokyo, the government set up a special communications office to collect information about the tsunami.

"The tsunami warnings and advisories are still out there and the first tsunami waves are beginning to be observed. People need to remain cautious," Takashi Hoshiyama, a meteorological agency official, told a news conference.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the warning was in effect for both Russia and Japan along with the Pacific Islands of Marcus, Wake and Midway. AFP

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Gringo captured; tries to elude arrest

By [illegible]
[illegible] Correspondents inhabitation

A shot broke in two after Hussein, a prisoner, and dashed his chest, hospitalized the ground, spoken source said. 16 was limping when he was brought to the CIG at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in Camp Crame, where PNP Director General Oscar Calderon officially announced the arrest.

Accompanied by his wife Jane, Hussein was later transferred to the PNP General Hospital for treatment of his injuries. The real estate fight first needed 20 stitches.

Hussein, who had a P1-million bounty, had disappeared after he was accused of masterminding a failed coup on Feb. 24 that prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a weeklong national state of emergency.

However, Hussein's arrest was based on an arrest warrant issued by Makati Judge Oscar Santaromita on coup d'état charges for his alleged participation in the Ultimo ad-mutiny. Hussein's wife Lilibeth Abdula whom Hussein will be detained.

Fingerprints in coup

The fingerprints are in all the coup attempts. He is the giant," said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. "I think [the arrest] will help stabilize the country."

But unnerved with Hussein's arrest his driver, Jaime Bolaclol, who is also convening medical aid for high blood pressure following their arrest. He is facing possible charges of obstruction of justice.

Killer are still evading: Among former Colonels Jake Malaquias and Eddie Santiago, Hussein's former classmates at the Philippine Military Academy who were also implicated in the plot to overthrow the Arroyo government.

Reuters files: Vanner Arde: El told reporters that prior to his arrest, Hussein had been preparing to surrender and face the charges against him.

Gonzalez confirmed that Hussein had sent several emissaries before through house in Ilocos offices, including Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and a "high-profile" politician. The latter broke came less than a month ago through a refined ground.

Tired of running

"He must have been so tired running around. But I think he wanted to surrender under his terms and that is what is not good," Gonzalez said.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said he wants to surrender offering help to the government, to cooperate with the government, that he wants out, that he would not be charged."

Hussein would probably be detained at Camp Bagong Diwa, the PNP Special Action Force headquarters [illegible] Laguna. Gonzalez said he was the recommendation of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada and former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan II, Hussein's former classmate at the Philippine Military Academy, are also facing charges of rebellion.

Reward money

Calderon said the P5-million reward on Hussein would go to Intelligence Police and this is not the only people who led police to the arrest in July of five civilians such as [illegible] one of the Magdalo group that staged the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The Magdalo soldiers were said to be planning to sabotage the Hello Garci tapes, the Angelo Addison on July 24 at the Senate. Preliminaries complete.

In Ex. Bonifacio Secure, seeking [illegible] operations, and Hussein [illegible] who had his own network of agents tracked down Hussein. "It's a big network," Bolaclol said. He said [illegible] various military intelligence units had worked to supply the PNP with information about Hussein's whereabouts.

Calderon said the reward money would go to the informant who [illegible] the [illegible] his hands.

One police source also said the CIG operatives managed to intercept mobile phone calls made by Hussein, spending weeks tracking the fugitive through his cell phone.

Another police source said the mobile phone [illegible] from Hussein down to the main culprit people from public places, including appeals calls around Metro Manila and even from inside a detention complex.

But Calderon told reporters that "we don't have the capability." his technical surveillance.

"What we use is human intelligence. We have informants talking and they will get rewards for their timely and relevant information," he said.

CIDG chief Director Avelino Razon said that three months hunt for Hussein operation began at the country, in Bicol, Occidental, in Ilocos, Manila, Iloilo, southern Tagalog region and Metro Manila.

Uses disguises

Senior Supt. Asher Delina, CIDG-RCR chief, also told reporters that agents had observed Hussein using disguises while on the run. "That's why we had a hard time with the positive identification."

Delina, who was one of the ground commanders, said he had asked his men to positively identify Hussein before moving into the Quezon City residence.

"As ground commander, I prefer that before we effect the arrest, we are sure that it is really his name, we need make any mistake because of the sensitivity of the situation," he said. "We observed all legalities of the operation."

Delina related that around 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the [illegible] abutted police about the presence of Hussein in his house in Inchican Valley, Dona Montserrat, in Marikina City. He said he immediately alerted his [illegible] units.

Around that time, Delina said police spotted a maroon Isuzu Crosswind van that Hussein had used in [illegible] and they will get rewards for their timely and relevant information," he said.

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Don't fire

Delina also said he gave strict orders to his men not to fire at Hussein unless fired upon.

Calderon also said Hussein called "version" of the arrest of Hussein, which could be injured himself after trying to jump out of a moving car.

Colonel Delina has given the true version and if there are other versions, no truth to our statement that it is the real version," Calderon said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the arrest "was another milestone that belongs to no close criminal conspiracy to destabilize the government and it a harbinger of promising political developments. Everything already in our favor."

"We can now make a mockery of the law by playing hide and seek with our law enforcement agencies and get away with it," Bunye said in a statement.

Senate President Manuel Villar called on the Senate administration to respect Honasan's rights, including the presumption of innocence, speedy trial and medical attention.

"I urge the authorities to limit the prosecution of Senator Honasan within the confines of the law for it is in the best interests, indeed the basis of public opinion, that prosecution should hold to case against him," Villar said in a statement.

Honasan treatment urged

Sen. Panfilo Lacson urged President Arroyo to order the transfer of Honasan's wife to detention."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said Honasan, whom he had described as a son, should have the charges against him suspended.

"I'm sure it is capable enough to do that. But he is imprisoned by good powers," said Enrile.

Senators Ramon Magsaysay, Pablo Lucas, Rodolfo Biazon, Aquilino Pimentel and Juliano Drilon Santiago all urged the government to treat Honasan kindly.

"He is a man of honor and of courage, so they should not underestimate him," said Lacson. "His grande might fall to his case."

"They should be no deal," said Senate Deputy Speaker Ma. Mercedes Garay. "Honasan is Honasan. He is not about to be treated as a political issue." With reports from Julie B. Bidarseta, Jaime Laboy, Guillaume, Cynthia D. Balicoa, Tarra T. Quinto, Leila Beora, J. Pantilogan, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lee Chu

We watched the woman named Ingrid Ramos, says agent

By [illegible]
[illegible] Correspondents

day morning at the townhouse belonging to Ramos in Green Meadows in Quezon City, ending yet another episode in his colorful and controversial life as military officer, coup plotter and politician.

Honasan, 56, who was granted amnesty in 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos for the series of coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino, was also [illegible] security in 1996, and was re-elected in 2001. He went into hiding in February after a court issued to connection with the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

No security

When he was captured, Honasan appeared to have been without security personnel, an oddity for an expert in PR security and acknowledged as "security consultant" even by his colleagues.

That he had been staying in the house for days, if not weeks, showed that he had either lost a network of support, or he had become a homebody.

"Honasan does have designing behavior as a physical body. He has also taken Ingrid as a hobby," one of his agents told the Inquirer.

As a fugitive in 1998 and the early '90s, Honasan was known [illegible] to move around several times, houses, condo units and even hotels to avoid arrest. He also never [illegible] to one place.

Always, he had a retinue of armed, security personnel to move to the medium, as ranged mostly by his chief security officer, a tall, mustached lawyer who usually kept himself in the background.

It was Honasan's security chief who made sure Honasan had [illegible] and [illegible] to keep him mobile.

"Dahil nga, never around body and [illegible] because are provided him with a network," said Honasan's security officer, who has joined the Arroyo administration.

The commission under Hon. Honasan's small team managed by a former vague plantation owner, while [illegible] in Ortigas was [illegible] the house. She noted it. That [illegible] to [illegible].

At around 2 p.m., the vehicle went to the townhouse in the Estate compound, he said.

"From there, I ordered a position [illegible] on Honasan. Based [illegible] Honasan came outside the room, house, we moved in. We immediately arrest upon the [illegible] and pursued him as he [illegible] to [illegible] house. We caught up with him on the first house of that compound. We immediately called him and read him his rights."

Don't fire

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People Power I propelled him to prominence

By [illegible]
[illegible] Correspondents

nobody, suggesting the peaceful revolt that chased Marcos from power and installed Corazon Aquino as president.

RAM was formed in 1985 by Honasan and other members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971 after they had coalesced in the armed Forces was beginning to "crack."

Depository of complaints

Then correspondent Sandra Burton's book, "Impossible Dream," Volume II, states that the society of coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino, was also observing soldiers, as exemplified by the 1986 promotion to colonel of Jesus Ily, one of General Ileto which happened from senior officers.

Even before they graduated from the PMA, members of the Class of 1971 had been known for protest actions. During their graduation ceremonies, Honasan, Gringo Biazon and leadership Asencio, and his classmates refused to stand up to protest 20-life perceived failure to punish cheating.

Parachuting with 'Tiffany'

After graduation, Honasan, son of an Army colonel, fought Muslim rebels in Cotabato and communist guerrillas in Isabela. His stories are [illegible] his antics, including hopping off the roof of his moving and [illegible] jumping from planes with his pet python, "Tiffany," around his neck, enhanced his image as a trouble-shooter.

Honasan served as Enrile's aide-de-camp for four years after being wounded in battle in 1979. In 1981, he became the chief security officer of the Ministry of National Defense, which sent him to Colorado to receive his master's degree in Business Management from the State Institute of Management.

For his participation in the failed Manila, the then Colonel Honasan received the Distinguished Conduct Star from [illegible] and was promoted to full colonel but received no coup attempts.

For taking part in the August 1987 mutiny, which left 53 dead and more than 200 injured, Honasan was sentenced to December 1987. He was detained in a [illegible] but was released after one year [illegible] guards to let him escape on April 2, 1988. They escaped with him.

Bloodiest coup attempt

In late 1989, Honasan led the bloodiest coup to date against the Aquino administration, which left 99 people dead and 570 wounded.

The rebels' occupation of Camp Aguinaldo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati hotels and other buildings, the PTA-4 President complex and other areas led to about a billion pesos in damage.

But the succeeding Ramos administration granted amnesty.

Almost instantly to Honasan and other military officers involved in a final in the failed power grabs.

Senate election

In 1995, Honasan won a free ride seat. His term was however marred by allegations he was one of the principal instigators of the May 1, 2001, attack on Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The Philippine National Police cited and Honasan and other personalities in "fugitives and terrorists" in connection with the attack. The declaration was later lifted, which allowed Honasan to campaign successfully for reelection.

In 2001, Honasan again "implicated" from the Senate" after the Senate impeachment trial of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny. He remained out after about a month.

Honasan was also linked to Estrada's failed power grab, which was allegedly a conspiracy among the Estrada-led rebel movement, some military officers and certain members of the opposition. He had denounced those public rumor shortly before the alleged plot was exposed. Cyrill L. Bonalberio, Inquirer Research

Palace: Honasan, Ang good omens for GMA administration

By [illegible]
[illegible] Correspondents

hing Bolcheng, Bobby Boyer and Honasan cases, and speak up the trial of Honasan in the Oakwood mutiny case and for Makati Regional Trial Court.

Romulo said the government was keen on finishing the mystery once against Honasan soon.

"From it's a reckless one, it will cause havoc," the executive secretary said. Romulo expects Honasan's court appearances to start within the next few months or so just in time for the start of the campaign.

The government believes that Honasan had the backing of several opposition personalities in his failed coup attempt in February which could affect the candidacies in the opposition senatorial slate endorsed by Jejomar Binay and Joseph Estrada.

Supporters of Honasan said after his capture that he would run for senator in May next year.

Romulo said Honasan could still run for senator as long as the court had not rendered a final verdict on the case, citing the case of former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who ran for public office even though he was being tried for raping minors.

Bad news since for a sick the opposition. Nothing prevents him from running. He still you know it would boost his chances again in [illegible] person before," said Romulo. Honasan won a Senate seat in 1995 while he was being tried for mutiny.

However, the people have become tired of destabilization attempts, according to Romulo.

"It may or may not work for him. His destabilization attempts could pull him down this time," the executive secretary said.

As for Ang, Romulo said, "You can declare it inclined he has anything to say and if he would say anything, [illegible] effect anybody in his cited line."

He said the government had yet to declare its commitment on whether to support Rep. GMA Cabucgayan Jr.

Ang is Prisoner No. 192 at congested Quezon City jail

By Ol Yap

HIS BOSS AT PEARS REMAINED in a prison-based Charlie "Boong" Ang arrived yesterday under heavy guard at the Quezon City jail, where he was to remain temporarily and while the Intelligence was to him for plunder.

He was assigned the number No. 192 in a congested cell that "ideally" should not be more than 15 prisoners, according to the jail warden, Supt. Lyndon Abaya.

But Ang, the grandfather, faced [illegible] of deposed President Joseph Estrada and his co-accused in a plunder case, should consider himself lucky: His 106 square-meter cell is the least congested in the jail, Abaya said.

The Quezon City jail has a capacity of 800 detainees, but is home to almost 3,500 prisoners, the jail official told reporters yesterday.

Jail gangs

For his own security from the gangs in the jail, Ang will stay in the dorm. This he'll be allowed to leave the cell in his or their cases," she told the inquirer.

Drug gangs thrive in the Quezon City jail. Barong Ong Tell, Apolonio Rebolo Nr. and Bigo-Bigan the officer said.

The head of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Chief Supt. Antonio Cruz, assured Ang that he would be safe in the jail. "Wala pong mangyayaring masama to him," he said shortly after shaking hands with Ang.

Possible transfer to Bicutan

He, however, clarified that "even [illegible] would like to transfer Ang, because the security measures were being "applied to everyone had not rendered a final verdict on the case, citing the case of former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who ran for public office even though he was being tried for raping minors.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Solved

STUNG BY THE UNPRECEDENTED CALL OF FOREign businessmen for an end to the extrajudicial executions of journalists and leftist activists, the Arroyo administration has vowed to do what they asked. "We condemn these killings," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement Tuesday. "They are a smear to Philippine democracy and the rule of law. This government is determined to stop the culture of violence, maintain peace and order and protect the democratic and basic human rights of every individual in the country."

EDITORIAL

Had Bunye stopped right there, some people might have seen a ray of hope on the horizon. But no, Bunye himself quickly introduced an element of doubt about the government's sincerity in stopping the rampage of political murderers and assassinations by declaring the reports on such killings as part of "an insidious campaign to discredit the national government."

Top police officials amplified the official line, with PNP Director General Oscar Calderon saying the number of victims was actually way below what human rights groups have been reporting. "These figures are being manipulated," he said. "Not all these are political killings."

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, head of Task Force Usig, the group tasked with solving such cases, said the same thing: "There is an obvious effort to sensationalize the incidents by deliberately overstating the figures and manipulating the facts." Since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001, Razon said, the PNP has counted not more than 136 killings of journalists and leftist activists for work-related or political reasons. A total of 108 others were killed either in legitimate clashes with government forces or because of personal grudges. He added that many of these killings were carried out by rival factions of the communist movement, but the government was being blamed for them for purposes of propaganda.

Curiously, the official tally of cases is not too far from the number of deaths claimed by Karapatan, a human rights organization which has been tracking such incidents. Karapatan puts at 783 the number of victims of extrajudicial execution since 2001. And it has a plausible explanation for the difference between its count and the official one: the victims' families were either denied help by the police or they just didn't report the killings because they believed they won't get justice from the government. Moreover, the group said it also counted deaths from strafing, indiscriminate bombing and massacres, which the government classifies as "collateral damage."

The Supreme Court puts the number of leftist victims since 2001 at 256, but their number excludes those who had no formal affiliation with leftist organizations. But no matter how they died, and no matter how they are classified, the one irrefutable fact is that they are all dead—hundreds of them, and still counting.

And there's another indisputable reality: Very few among them have gotten justice.

Razon, however, said the police have already solved many of these cases. For instance, he said, out of 28 cases where journalists were killed for reasons related to the practice of their profession, 21 have been solved.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, which puts the toll at 46 media people, has challenged that claim, saying that only a few cases have ended in conviction.

But Razon said that as far as the PNP is concerned, a case is officially considered solved once the suspect has been identified and charged in court. It does not matter if the suspect has not been arrested, he added.

It's a novel way of solving cases. And it certainly simplifies police work. Just identify the suspect and file charges (maybe trumped up ones?), and you can stamp the case "solved." If the case is so weak that the charges are thrown out by the prosecutor or the judge, it will remain closed as far as the PNP is concerned. And the aggrieved should presumably take it as that.

This must be justice—Philippine-style.

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Hocking family silver

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DEFICITS ON THE RISE SINCE THE EDSA REVOLUTION HAS ravaged the mining industry. But the Philippines' losses come into mutual focus as shocks: 1999 Department of Environment and Natural Resources order that gives away "the family silver"?

A close study of Administrative Order 99-56, issued by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, shows this order collects taxes with the left hand, and shoos them with the right hand into cash-strapped pockets.

"Whatever remains for every grassroots," writes former United Nations ecosystem-in fo Ed Paumlla. "But in DAO 99-56, we've pushed that generosity to ridiculous proportions."

Paumlla, formerly at the School of Applied Economics at De La Salle University-Southeastern Philippines. And his paper "Tax Rituals Concession" concludes that skewed guidelines, for 8 years of technical assistance agreements, short-change government.

"The product culled—the most liberal guaranty concession which are not afforded by any other country in the world," Paumlla observes. In fact, the Mindanao Regional Development Council has prodded the DENR to review it.

"Sweetheart" rates are not new in this neck of the woods. This is a country where the rich evade what they want and the poor yield what they must. Notorious rules favored "rubber barons" in felling ground permits and favor reservations, to name just two crucial national resource scenes.

"DAO 99-56 is not widely known," Paumlla says. "You are in offices three to most Filipinos. The academic community was to spearhead a debate on this issue. But somehow, it remains a basically unknown community."

Mindanao accounts for 60 percent of the country's gold deposits and 61 percent of nickel. But national reserves remain undeveloped. And mining's collaborators have resulted in patchy production. In the 1980s, the Philippines stood with the world's top 15 mineral producers. By the turn of the century, the country's gold production had slumped to 25th. We were 13th in nickel.

DOA 99-56 guidelines seek "equitable sharing" between private contractors, government and local communities. "Plans would ensure a fair competitive and stable investment regime. But in two areas—refundable pre-operating expenses and additional government shares—theirs is a subsidy by reality."

In his analysis, Paumlla pinpoints 13 specific items that are "irrecoverable pre-operating expenses. Another nine are dubbed 'Deductible Expenses.' (This) is the most liberal giveaway condition ever formulated," the study notes.

"The basic government share is entirely deductible, i.e., they fall clearly under items, duties and fees," it states. "What does not fall under this category is caught ... under 'Deductible Expenses.' In effect, what the contractor gives to government, is given back to the same contractor."

Irrecoverable pre-operating bills "cover almost any expenses we can think of," the study adds. This "blank check" includes exploration loss incurred in and outside the Philippines, from the "establishment of field and regional offices, including housing, furniture and fixtures" to "all other costs directly or indirectly related to" pre-operating "obligations."

Plus. There are more giveaways. To determine "Additional Government Share," contractors may choose any one of three formulas offered by the rules. "Frankly, all three favor the contractor," Paumlla writes. "But the more advantageous, based on historical performance, is the second formula." It guarantees that the government will not get an additional cent, ever.

So, how does this formula 2 jackpot operate? Two conditions must be met. First, the contractor's net income, after taxes, must exceed 40 percent of his gross sales. That's simple. The joker lurks in the second condition. The contract must must "YOU" —the acronym for Net Income After Tax.

What does that mean? The National Revenue Code puts YOU' at 70 cents for the higher rounded off to the nearest two decimal points." Forget the tax jargon. Workable data show that this is, i.e., 0.90. Just never been approached, even by the most profitable mining firm, both in the Philippines and around the world, says the study.

The study documents this by tables on "Net After" ratio in output, for six largest Philippine mining companies, including Benguet and Lepanto. A similar table for world firms, including the Tintic and Pinoc Ocsite., is presented.

2020Ho's order, therefore "signed a condition that is impossible to meet," Paumlla observes. "In so doing, we guaranteed that this (negotiation) will have no "additional government share from mining output."

Today's Philippines' no mining is constricted to solid but limited ecological and social concerns. "But it hasn't examined the impact of DAO 99-56, which is more devastating and difficult to manage," Paumlla writes. "It (concerns) equity and fairness and thereby outnumbers ecological and social issues." The study urges that today's critic specifically to current think check provisions, be revised and replaced by guidelines that are more equitable, both for Filipinos and contractors. Such provisions should be limited to the Board of Investments' Omnibus Investment Code.

In addition, government should formulate guidelines for artisanal and small-scale mining. They are not covered by DAO 99-56. But they inflict significant damage to the ecology "because they're mined as if there were no investors.

Their miners also operate as if governments didn't exist—which is a reasonable assumption given the track record of DAO 99-56's giving away the "family silver."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Mohammad and the mountain

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY COLUMN LAST WEEK ABOUT THE IMPACT on this country of the exodus of Filipinos abroad seems to have depressed many readers. I've gotten letters from them seeming to know what can possibly be done about it, surprising by even how Filipinos abroad who feel a little guilty about it.

I must go into the broader aspects of the problem, which I've touched on before. It has to do with our lack of "a sense of country," as I've put it, which is patent when even emigrants are to our fellow neighbors. Just look at the nationals of the other Asian countries, who will be gathering here soon, and so. We keep wondering how they've succeeded in life and have never lost, or refused to lose all sense of country and see death, diabetic stole bigger than Marcos, but he never took the money out. They leave their countries as a last resort, we leave out as a first.

But like I said, I won't go into that again here. I myself am not getting on in despair yet, simply because even as we speak I can glimpse the seeds of countervailing forces. Those countervailing forces are not in the halls of academe. On the contrary, they are in the streets. They are, such as the Asian Development Bank purposes, which will be terrible in the seven years particularly that the waves takes the form of the conscription of the entire educational system (moving departments functional English) to train the local workforce to be nurses for the world. Those countervailing forces are in the form of the mind-boggling technological changes that are turning the world, economically, into—who sees one truly global village, much as Marshall McLuhan brilliantly predicted way back to the 1960s.

My point is this: Why should Mohammad feel compelled to go to the mountain when he can very well coax the mountain to come to him? Or for once in our life, why should we feel compelled to go out into the world when we can very well coax the world to come to us?

The new technology makes it possible. I caught a glimpse of that a month or so ago in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. I remember, in the one-of-our front page on a slow day. It was a story about a service Bangalore is offering that is driving magnificently Bangalore, of course, is the IT capital of Asia. Their service consists of gathering some of the finest brainiest in India to serve American clients who have problems in their businesses. You can have issues who are confused, have to-face, communication through the Internet. Those who subscribe to the service can ask their issues any question they want about Geography, Math, and the various sciences, and they are given answers complete with visuals, with items from books their presentations with blackboards, as in a typical classroom.

The service is thriving because of sheer economics. Private tutoring in the United States costs about $100 an hour. That is for the public-use package goes for $300 a month! In the United States, you'll have issues who are probably preacher than to coach to Mars and who will be constantly looking at their watches. In Bangalore, you can have issues who are confused and who will answer, such as Salman Rushdie's brothers and sisters can be so relaxed. All in all, a bargain by any standard, made possible by the digital revolution.

When I read that, the first thing I thought about was why we never thought about the idea in the first place. I wondered why we couldn't provide the same service, and so hold on to our professors who are opening up for the universities in Singapore and elsewhere for lack of a decent living basis. But then I realized *why* India has a cut-and-advantage there: It's a country that continues to have a strong intellectual life, notwithstanding its teeming poverty and even widespread pockets of squalor. Despite them still exist, and do so not because they have few other sources of amusement but because books still for a song. There truly honest to the for a song, even literally. India has one of the cheapest prices in the world for books. The famous Sunset Times used to have the cheapest. I don't know if India has gone past Russia there now.

I did think as well of our own call centers, the ones doing that type of business have better than billion. Well, better than nothing, even if the biggest skill it demands from its workers is the ability to speak English like an inmate in Los Angeles prison—and even of Americans and Los Angeles no longer speak that way. As things now obtain, you can have an accent. The worst that can't name but get by magnificently in the world. But the call centers are magnificent not in and of themselves but for what they show, which is the way out of the rut. They show that we have the resources—the talent and plant, which is our burning need to generate into the world when we can easily measure the world into our doorstep.

I myself have quite another proposal than the call centers. That is for the public-use and private sectors to move to translate the enormous wealth of, and to introduce them to the kids in particular. The logic of that is that computer skills are basically language skills—the PC is an extension of language, or how we think and how we communicate—and people learn languages faster as kids than as adults, the learning being more intuitive than cognitive. The further logic of that is that Filipino have the gift of "ear" to radio, which is why we have been so easily Greek at the OPMs) and sing wonderfully. Look at Philippine Idol etc.). Or as I accurately believe. Which is also why our IT skills are second to none. We produce great IT people, we just produce so few of them—as compared to other countries.

But there you have it. Everyone! Why should Mohammad go to the mountain when the mountain can be made to go to him?

Sorry prospects for Senate

DOES BIG AMUSEMENT IN MAYOR ID A DEPT TO the parliamentary unleashed scientist do only? Ahead of the Senate today, and not completed some May 2007. That store-major deadline where, in to glory years, walked talented chain such as Clare Rocio, Lorenzo Tañada, Jovito Salonga and Heherson Alvarez. Joseph Estrada no sayang: Are do-nothing Senator Ejercito the prospects of having two Gowanian, two Estradas and one Revilla, a dreadnot soap phone and an association of those his. And senator possibly joining the exodus in the coming May 2007 elections. But perhaps the biggest indications comes from very incredible senators, Nenita Lucena and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Their ambitions to run against each other for reelection in the presidential election of 2010 is a matter of record.

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Lucena, a veteran of the Senate since 1995, is running for senate reelection. Santiago, a senator since 1995, is running for senate reelection. Santiago, a senator since 1995, is running for senate reelection. Santiago, a senator since 1995, is running for senate reelection.

Where's the gov't?

IT SEEMS LIKE THE DOH/DepEd-sponsored dancing the tutorial on education framework and promotion formed the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) "to attract the declining quality of education." (PDI, 8/2/06) But before we showed PBEd with scoreboards, **let's ask first: Where's the government when it is needed most?**

The crisis in education is decisive, and statistics don't lie about this. Secretary Education Secretary Jesse Mojica (11) said the shortage of 42,000 teachers and 1 million desks and chairs, only three out of ten graduates who enter Grade 1 finish Grade 6, only 40 percent of Tee Hawk high school, and only one out of 10 Grade college. Government to the first to know these data, but again the question: Where is it?

Under our Constitution, education is a right of all citizens, and the State has the duty to protect and promote this right. Government says that this education crisis is a funding problem and can hands are scarce. We say that the problem is misappropriation and corruption. Every year, debt swelling gets the biggest chunk of the national budget, at the expense of education and social services. This year, education became a third priority after debt service and military expenditure, for the last three months, more public funds were spent for bullets than for books and classrooms.

May we remind, too, our lawmakers that the decline in the quality of education and access to it were brought about, in a larger sense, by the present socio-economic set-up that favors the few. Instead for increases in private elementary schools have slowed down enrollment growth from 10.22 percent in 1997 to negative 1.58 percent in 2005. The number of diploma mills mushrooming because of the demand for ICT, nursing and caregiver courses. Unregulated by the government, the diplomas has resulted horror in Philippine education.

In sum, we say that charity is a virtue, but we need responsibility. The private sector must not value in profit from education, and the government must prioritize in investments in education.

—MARCUS R. ORAIN REYES, national president, National Union of Students of the Philippines, nusp.national@yahoo.com

Fur-covered, unreachable star

BEYONCE KNOWLES SHE HAVE a lot wider but she's hunting: when it comes to compassion, I'll never count on her unless really," PDI, 11/4/06).

Right for the Animal Treatment of Animals (Peta) has tried everything to convince Beyoncé to lease a heart for the animals who are tortured and killed for the fur she wears and uses in her clothing line. We've written polite letters, sent her videos, protested outside her concerts and even ran a full-page open letter in her hometown magazine. I thought that if I could talk in her in person, she might have a change of heart. But when I explained how animals who are killed for their fur are skinned alive, she shrugged off my fur-wearing hypocrisy. Beyoncé just an in every silence before her mother ordered me to leave.

I urge readers to make the compassionate choice and leave fur where it belongs—on the animals' backs.

—RANAAN SCHEIN, manager, Research and Investigations Department, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510

LETTERS

Reminiscent of martial law

INQUIRER.NET 11 EDITORIAL suggested that it is martial law all over again, and rightly so. The Good Shepherd priests, true to the congregation's long-standing tradition of anti-martial law pronouncements, strongly condemned the said unholy comment in Barangay City Archbishop Oscar Cruz. His successor, Bishop-Apostolic Administrator Bishop Jesse Dir-Pacifico, declared solidarity of the priest and a member of the Ideal Commission on that. He only commented that the police summoned a barangay official to ask for copies of the sermons.

It is in our view that bishops called for an investigation, what is there to investigate anyway? The police had already admitted that they had made a couple minutes. If they had hit the right place, they would have acted the same way—minus the swearing.

The attitude of Bishop Pacifico calls to mind the Church's policy of "critical collaboration" with the state to regime at the height of martial law. It took the late Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin 14 years of critical collaboration before he made his famous impromptu "miracle of Edsa."

A few weeks ago, the Philippines was shaken by the brutal murder of Philippine Independent Church Bishop Alberto Ramento. There is a general outcry of outrage and condemnation from all Christian churches, except from the Catholic Church. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines kept silent.

Do we have to wait for another Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador to be martyred before the Church finally repudiates and distances in one voice that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's step down or grave violation against humanity?

—ARNOLD VAN UGAT, PO Box 257, Cagayan de oro City

LET'S0 hath lining up for "duel" at "manipulated" results?

A lotto mystery: 3 winners in 3 separate draws

IN A SPAN OF 15 DAYS THE Philippine lottery produced three winners in three separate draws as follows: Oct. 5 (5+31), Oct. 5 (6/49) and Oct. 17 (6/42). That is unbelievable. Mathematically, the mathematical improbability of something the risk happening. The odds against it is a million to one. But it's there and it happened. I examine this to only [illegible] under two conditions: (1) the results are being manipulated; or (2) there are just too many bettors despite only a [illegible] bulk to get rich quick and out of poverty.

As conditions, are taken no way of finding out if No. 1 were the reason for the "improbable win frequency" in October if No. 2 was the reason, then how come the just did not go up as much as it should? The joint between draws should go up dramatically if there is a substantial increase in the number of bettors. But no such increases was noticed in those draws. The increases in the prizes followed the upward trend.

Is there something going on at the agency? Somebody should look into this before a blown up and causes another black eye on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's face.

—JOEY CAPARAS, EastFabrizio, Quezon City

Why the Senate, it's the House that should be abolished

I WRITE TO CONGRATULATE Richard Junior Isagani Cruz for his far-reaching assessments on Charter change widely discussed by our "intellectuals" in the past days or weeks. After the lambing of the people's initiative by the Supreme Court.

However, I wish to suggest a different tack. Instead of scrapping the Senate, the new Charter should abolish the House of Representatives. Under a new Constitution, we will have a Parliament composed of just 24 senators who will enact laws and will also act on the recommendation of the different provincial governors and city mayors, together with their respective Sangguniang Panglalawigan and Panglungsod.

The country will be evenly divided into 24 districts, based on the number of votes and the four senators with the highest number of votes will obviously not sit in the Parliament: make it a working-class setup.

Can you imagine the savings our country will have without the 220 congressmen in our government?

—ANTONIO A. PANAGLAGTA, Pasay, Rizal Street

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Clarifications on 'sex a good thing' story

I WOULD LIKE TO OBJECT AND CORRECT the news item "Sex this prime, sex 'a good thing,' Church made it 'bad'" written by Norvie Calimoso. (PDI, 10/23/06)

First, I belong to the community of the Missionaries of Jesus (the Cenacle), founded by the ID-CJD four years ago and live from the Society of Jesus.

Second, I did not on any occasion talk to Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Diocese of Baguio and Benguet about the speaker referred on by the reporter.

Third, the seminar was about gender sensitivity for nuns. It did not have to do anything and the Church. The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness among nuns about their sexuality and to help them in dealing especially their sexual functioning, relative to problems against themselves, or to other nuns considered weak, and to women and nature.

Fourth, I did not say that the position of the Church on homosexuality is deceptive. I said the sacred for appears to be dealing with them, and that the most important Christian value is compassion and not moral judgment. On this matter, the Church is found wanting; it is too act-oriented and insensitive to homosexual persons as individualized human beings.

Fifth, I did not state that virginity was a sin. I also that had no real reason to society. As a spiritual statement, I said virginity is not a value in some cultures as because their members bestow as a gospel value for women who are praised by consistency as child-bearers, and for men who are dominantly portrayed as fathers or procreators of children.

Sixth, I made a critique on the Church's pastoral and worldview attitudes and world-view which, indeed, is reinforced historically by the institution on the statement of Jesus. The male person and his rapid biases become the norm and reference points of all relationships and moral judgments. Those in a masculine role not faith or within our views on masculine women, we must safely and unfailing Church today. Our failure to do this would make our faith sterile and unable to appreciate the compliance of our existing humanity.

Lastly, the reporter assured me that he would not publish the article until I unless the sources with me on this subject matter. Unfortunately he did not respect our arrangement. Here is my responsible publication.

—FR. PERCY BACANI, SJ

I had to withdraw the long discussion given by Father Bacani. The quotes were missed or support, in good faith to my decision discourse on sexuality and the Church.

The reporter assured me that he would not publish the article until I unless the sources with me on this subject matter. Unfortunately he did not respect our arrangement. Here is my responsible publication.

—VINCENT GARCIA, correspondent, PDI Northern Luzon bureau

'Tamaraw Month' marked last October

"THE OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO SEEK! TO find Mindo's news about the "Tamaraw Month." (PDI, 11/08/06)

In recognition of the Tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis, a critically endangered species that can only be found in the island of Mindoro) as a national pride, Presidential Proclamation No. 1970 was issued on October 2002, which declared the Month of October as a "Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw Ecosystem."

This year's celebration was not ignored by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Under PP 1970, the provision of the two Mindoro provinces are mandated to take lead in its implementation in coordination with the DENR, which shall provide them with technical assistance.

In this light, the DENR-ecosystem which is the government of Mindoro for a celebration of the Tamaraw Month. So early in July of this year, meetings were held for the purpose. As a result, we had an opening parade, an information and education caravan through Online Tube to selected high schools, poster-making contests, a bio quiz, photo exhibits, municipal assistance and bio camp (held in the Gene Nest in Mindoro and participated by by representatives from both provinces, the academe and other stakeholders).

The celebration was highlighted with a "Tamaraw Forum" that was hosted by Gov. Josephine Leon of Occidental Mindoro on Dec. 26, 2006. This forum was attended by the members, other government officials, NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders, like the academia, communities and indigenous peoples.

—VICENTE S. PANGAL, regional executive director, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region-IV.

In US, SC outsiders have served as chief justices

LIKE IN THE UNITED STATES, OUTSIDERS should also be considered for the top post in our Supreme Court.

The inclusion of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago in the nomination list for the top judicial post in the country should set a precedent that an outsider can be appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court. This is the practice in the United States, on whose Constitution are patterned ours. It has had remarkable success in choosing outsiders to the post of chief justice, and since the founding of the United States, only five of them came from the Supreme Court.

I don't know why some make this only limited, as can be appointed or even considered for the position, when the Constitution does not make any such restriction.

—EDUARDO B. DE GUZMAN, lawyer, Notre Dame Drive, Barangay San Isidro, Olongapo City

From Viva Las Vegas to QC jail

Story continues on page A2

while being tried.

He will share the facility's Dormitory No. 7 with 191 inmates who are undergoing trial for various crimes.

"The accused himself admitted that he would not undertake the threats he has received," said Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro in open court to explain why the division junked Ang's motion.

Rules of court

"[And] the court is bound by the rules of court that no accused be committed to the nearest police station or jail. Inviting adults in this case is the Quezon City jail," said De Castro, chair of the Special Division trying Ramiro, after conferring with Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz and Diosdado Peralta.

After Estrada's downfall in January 2001, Ang was charged as one of the ousted President's conspirators in earning a payola racket from the illegal numbers game "jueteng" and in laundering for Estrada P130 million from tobacco-excise taxes.

Estrada, who has been in detention since the 2001 while his case is heard, is accused of amassing a personal fortune of up to P4 billion.

Both the defense and prosecution panels have tested their cases and a verdict is pending.

Ang will be tried because he was not in the country when the case against Estrada was heard.

He flew in the United States in 2000, following the ouster of Estrada, but was arrested in Slovakia after the Philippines sought his extradition.

Threats to life

The Special Division junked Ang's motion to present in consecutive sessions witnesses who were to testify that Ang had told them about the threats on his life as early as when he was still in the Bratislava jail.

"This is evidence prejudicial to whatever motion the accused will file for the court to reconsider this decision that he be committed to the QC jail," De Castro said.

Ang's lawyer Alfredo Villamor asked the court if he could present the witnesses, who he said included a member of the NBI.

"Doesn't the accused have the right to present witnesses to prove his case?" Villamor said while Ang watched with a police officer his constant struggle to undo his opponents.

Villamor said it would do Ang good to just file another motion to prove his case that there were serious threats to his life and that leaving an entire cell all to his own would be best to keep him away from danger.

"The court has already made its decision. Just present your arguments in writing," Villaruz told Villamor.

In real danger

Ang is in "real danger" from the inmates or the police watch for transfer to the Quezon City jail, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Asked about the threat from the police, the justice secretary said: "Who are involved in the Kampong Bulalong? Isn't it the police?"

The Kampong Bulalong case refers to the alleged execution of suspected robbery gang members after they were placed under police custody in 1995.

Gonzalez shortly after his extradition to the Philippines last week, shared information about the Kampong Bulalong case and the disappearance of similar camera operator Edgar Mortale. Gonzalez said earlier:

Mortale, who has been tagged as the source of a videotape showing Ang and Estrada playing golf in the country's resort relaxing in 1999 and has not been found since.

Gonzalez also said Ang had linked incumbent politicians to the two cases, but the justice secretary refused to name the politicians.

He also said the threats that Ang had received before his extradition to the Philippines were serious.

Arraignment

At the Sandiganbayan, the Special Division also junked Ang's motion that his arraignment be deferred because his lawyer had yet to get hold of the records of his case.

Villamor argued that having Ang arraigned would deprive him of such legal remedies as a motion for a reinvestigation and a motion to quash the charges against him.

"There is nothing in the records that show there is a motion for a reinvestigation or a motion to quash. A plea is a matter of choice. It could be a ground to defer arraignment," De Castro said in court.

Villamor told the court that the arraignment may not push through because his client might engage the services of another lawyer for the arraignment proceedings. He said his engagements with Ang were only to argue the case for his commitment to the NBI jail.

The court didn't give weight to Villamor's argument.

Refused to enter plea

Ang, upon consultation with Villamor, refused to enter a plea. The court entered for him a plea of not guilty.

Ang arrived in a convoy of NBI vehicles accompanied by NBI agents and special investigators with Iraq and other firearms used by the Quezon Police District special weapons and tactics personnel.

He appeared jolly before the start of the morning hearing as Reynaldo Fernandez of the NBI Special Task Force and Amelia Jacinto Hizon-Bello led the escort convoy from the NBI's office to the First Division courtroom.

Ang was smiling and was even rejoicing as exchange with Estrada lawyer Jay Flaminiano and Estrada publicist Perfie Nemeno when he entered the courtroom.

His deposition dumped when the Sandiganbayan justices came back from a 40-minute deliberation and ruled that he be committed to the city jail and that he be arraigned.

Estrada and his son, Jinggoy Estrada, were detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City before the former was ordered confined in his condo in Tuason, Bird, Jinggoy later posted bail.

The Estrada and lawyer Edcel Sangco were initially detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group holding facility. With reports from Cecilia B. Salazar in and AFP

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Study reveals 9 secrets . . .

Story continues on page A2

The 40-year study of nearly 6,000 Japanese-American men living in the state of Hawaii concluded that middle-aged men would live healthily into their 80s and beyond if they had none of nine risk factors.

The risk factors: being overweight, meaning a body-mass index of 25 or more; having high blood glucose levels, which can lead to diabetes; having high triglyceride levels, which contributes to obesity or heart disease; having high blood pressure; having low grip strength—unable to squeeze at least 66 pounds of pressure with a handheld device; smoking; consuming three or more alcoholic drinks daily; not graduating from high school, and being unmarried.

The study involved 5,820 Japanese-American men living in Honolulu, aged 45 to 68, who were followed for up to 40 years, but the researchers said the results likely applied to women and men of other ethnic heritage as well.

"Your chances were more than 66 percent of being healthy at that age [if] if you avoided these risk factors, yet if you had six or more of these risk factors you had less than a 1.8 percent chance of living into your mid-80s," said lead author Dr. Bradley Willcox, a scientist at the Pacific Health Research Institute in Honolulu.

"There appears to be a lot we can do about modifying our risk and increasing the odds for aging more healthfully," Willcox said. "It's good news because it really gives you something to save in us if we want to be healthy as an older age."

The results of the study appeared in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Exceptional survival

Study participants were in their 50s on average when the research began. The health of each participant was evaluated at the start and then at eight follow-up examinations.

A total of 5,369 participants, or 59 percent, died before age 85.

Eleven percent—631 men—reached a milestone the researchers dubbed "exceptional survival." That was reaching age 85 without any mental or physical impairments, including chronic heart disease, stroke, lung disease, Parkinson's disease and diabetes.

The men who had none of the nine disease risk factors in middle had a nearly 76-percent chance of living to age 85, and a 33-percent chance of reaching the exceptional milestone.

By contrast, those with six or more risk factors in middle had a 2.3-percent chance of living to age 85 and a less than 1-percent chance of exceptional survival.

"These risk factors can be easily measured in a clinical setting and are, for the most part, modifiable," the researchers said.

According to the study, women tend to outlive men.

More than twice as many females as women (than men) live to age 85, and three times as many women live into their 90s.

Living right

The study showed "that you can still live healthy and live to 85 if you live right," said Dr. Carl Lavie, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans.

Lavie, who was not involved in the research, said most of the factors the researchers identified as contributing to longevity had long been associated with healthy living.

Grip strength, for instance, is a strong indicator of upper body strength. "It is further proof "that it is important to be physically robust in midlife ... consistent with theories of aging that suggest that better built organisms last longer," the study said.

Normal levels of blood glucose and fats in the blood called triglycerides indicate a person has avoided excess calories and has worked to eating select fish in fruits and vegetables.

Other habits long linked with good health and well-being—avoiding smoking and excess alcohol, and being married—also appeared characteristic of men living well into their 80s.

Lavie said the study had done a good job of "putting it together in one package" and showing the combined benefits.

Same for everyone

While Japanese-American men tend to be thinner and healthier than the general US population, Lavie said it made sense to think that the same factors that influenced their survival would also affect other people.

The study noted that people aged 65 and older were the fastest-growing age group in most industrialized countries and are among the largest consumers of health care resources.

Figuring out how to help people remain healthy as they age is

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Foreign beetle attacking coco industry

IN THE KNOW

Brontispa

BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA IS A coconut leaf beetle that generally feeds on the young leaves of seedlings, ornamental palms and mature coconut trees. The beetle's eggs cause the damage and drying of different parts of the tree, thus preventing them from bearing fruits, and eventually killing the tree.

Endemic in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, Brontispa is generally found in coastal areas with annual rainfall of 1,500 millimeters to 2,000 millimeters.

The eggs of Brontispa are difficult to detect because they are inserted in between leaves. It takes approximately one month for the eggs to hatch into larvae and become adult beetles.

The adult Brontispa is 10 millimeters long and 2.5 to 3 millimeters wide. The insect said the regional units of the Commander Party of the Philippines is now in "total disarray."

"There is no question we are succeeding in reducing the capability of the enemy," Ramos said in a statement.

On the 44th month of the stepped-up anti-insurgency campaign, Malacañan has concentrated its combat, intelligence and civilian efforts in Bulacan and Batangas, planking more forces there in forms of special operations teams. Aside from the 301st, 204th, 2nd Infantry Battalions, troops from the 69th IB have recently extended operations in Bulacan.

Ramos said the campaign at this point has been harmonized with the Philippine National Police and local government, indicating added measures to defeat the rebels and diminish their influence in towns and cities and block their reinforcement routes.

Gen. Agudelo, spokesperson of the 80th IB Central Luzon, doubted the success claimed by Ramos. He said that while the 84th has some fighters, its ranks were increasing. Agudelo gave no figures in terms of combatants and arms.

Maurice Arcadio, Inquirer Central Luzon

By Dazon L. Lacar

A PEST THAT ARRIVED on local shores last year through imported ornamental plants is threatening the $760-million Philippine coconut industry, according to agriculture officials.

The brontispa beetle attacks the leaves of the coconut or palm tree, especially the part where the young leaves grow (frond). These said, describing the pest's methods. "Eventually, the whole tree dies."

The infestation has local officials and farmers worried, especially since the brontispa beetle is not a natural Philippine inhabitant. Not an insect that has ridden the globalization wave.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the brontispa beetle first came into prominence attacking coconut and palm trees in Indochina, specifically the countries of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

Infestations were also discovered later on the Chinese mainland, specifically on Hainan and Guangdong provinces, and soon on the island of Taiwan.

Later, the beetle was found in Indonesia, Malaysia – a major palm oil producer – Myanmar, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

In all those countries, coconut and palm tree output were severely affected by the outbreak.

"It was especially severe in Vietnam where whole plantations turned brown," Philippine Coconut Authority deputy administrator Carlos E. Carpio said in an interview.

Four days did the pest traverse the South China Sea, which has so far successfully prevented the country from other outbreaks like the avian flu, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, and even mad cow disease?

"My friends in rome have brought the importation of ornamental palms," Carpio said.

More importantly, he pointed out that it is the distribution and sale of these ornamental palms even around the country due to helping the brontispa beetle multiply more rapidly, rather than a natural occurrence. Carpio said.

"They can't go very far [on their own]," he said. "But the landscaping industry is helping them move around."

Once they hatch into a coconut or palm tree, the pests make their presence felt—and seen—immediately.

"The beetle feeds on young leaves, which consequently turned or wrinkled," a statement from the PCA said. "The pest may cause the death of young palms and those attained in poor growing conditions."

The beetle also damages seedlings and mature coconut palms, killing young sprouts and eventually the whole palm. "Unscrewed palms suffer the same fate," the statement added.

Army says 39 rebels killed since January

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Eight hits People's Army guerrillas were killed in eight clashes with government troops in Northern and Central Luzon starting in October, bringing to 39 the total number of rebels insurgents since January, military reports showed.

The latest encounters took place in Pantabangan and Carranglan in Nueva Ecija, Pilar and Orion in Bataan, City of Malolos in Bulacan, all in Central Luzon; Dupax del Sur in Nueva Vizcaya, Road in Cagayan and Balbalasa in Kalinga-Apayao.

The Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said no soldiers from the 5th and 7th Infantry Division died in those battles.

Nolcom's January to August report showed 118 soldiers were killed and 98 others were wounded. Last year's death toll reached 25 on the military's side and 39 on the rebels' side. The military has seized 67 firearms to date. It reported recovering 73 guns throughout 2004.

Reduced incline to strength with the arrest of Leopoldo Cabaza, which the military and police claimed to be the chief of the NPA command in Central Luzon, and setback to many bases, Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Svatlicio Ramos said the regional units of the Commander Party of the Philippines is now in "total disarray."

"There is no question we are succeeding in reducing the capability of the enemy," Ramos said in a statement.

On the 44th month of the stepped-up anti-insurgency campaign, Malacañan has concentrated its combat, intelligence and civilian efforts in Bulacan and Batangas, planking more forces there in forms of special operations teams. Aside from the 301st, 204th, 2nd Infantry Battalions, troops from the 69th IB have recently extended operations in Bulacan.

Ramos said the campaign at this point has been harmonized with the Philippine National Police and local government, indicating added measures to defeat the rebels and diminish their influence in towns and cities and block their reinforcement routes.

Maurice Arcadio, Inquirer Central Luzon

SECURE MISSION
A soldier stands guard as members of the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team conduct a medical mission in Limbo, Sultan Kudarat. The team keeps track of a ceasefire agreement between Muslim separatist guerrillas and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Gonzales says no indoctrination in seminars

By Carlo P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD—NATIONAL SECURITY Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday denied that the seminars on national security awareness being conducted for soldiers and policemen around the country has anything to do with public indoctrination.

"I am very very specific; partisan politics is prohibited in the Armed Forces," said Gonzales.

Gonzales was at the Negros Occidental Capitol to chair the first closed-door consultation on the Enhanced National Internal Security Plan with government, military and police officials here.

Gonzales said he was going around the country discussing the national internal security plan because all those in government "should understand: how we will fight (the) enemies of the state."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon on Tuesday took the Senate floor to denounce what he said are seminars being conducted by Gonzales' political party Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, to police and army camps.

Biazon asked the Senate to investigate Gonzales and the PDSP saying the latter has no business indoctrinating soldiers and policemen on his party's ideology.

Gonzales said Biazon has been putting stalive into the minimum because he chairs the PDSP. However, he said, the PDSP does not have membership of the AFP.

"Any member of the AFP who wants to be a member of a political party must resign," he added.

Gonzales, however, stressed that it would be "important for the Armed Forces to have knowledge on different political groups in the Philippines and the world."

One of the lectures in the seminars being conducted is on the political opinions and conservative ideologies, he said.

"The enemies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, like the communists, like to pervert concepts... it is necessary that the AFP understand properly the enemies they are facing," he said.

He said there was no indoctrination involved as the court conducting the training are from the Center for Strategic Studies.

Quirino's 116th birthday observed

QUIRINO

FORMER PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino's 116th birthday will be observed today in simultaneous ceremonies in Manila, Ilocos Sur and La Union.

Former first lady Vicky Quirino-Delgado and Manila Mayor Jaime Atienza will lead festivities at the South Cemetery in Manila, while Quirino provincial officials will spearhead activities in Vigan City and Cavanan town in Ilocos Sur and in Agoo, La Union, the hometown of the late president's parents Mariano Quirino and Gregoria Rivera.

The Doña Gregoria Quirino Memorial Hospital in Agoo will be blessed and formally opened by La Union Gov. Victor Ortega, Cory Quirino, Aquino deputies, and government officials and dignitaries.

Quirino, the second president of the Second Philippine Republic, was founding member and former president of the Liberal Party.

Born in Vigan, he obtained a law degree from the University of the Philippines as a working student. He was a public school teacher in Cebu, La Union.

Quirino served as private secretary to President Manuel Quezon, congressman, senator secretary, senator and vice president. He succeeded President Manuel Roxas who died, and took his oath of office on April 17, 1948.

Within two weeks of his presidency, he granted amnesty to the Huks and signed Republic Act No. 265 creating the Central Bank and RA 272 granting salary increases to teachers and government employees.

An economist at heart, he became the energy needs of a growing nation by establishing the Ambuklao and Bin. Upon his disinherent dams. He is best remembered as The Father of Philippine Industry whose economic blueprint served as basis for the country's industrial development.

Equally lauded for his progressive foreign policy, Quirino became the Philippines' first secretary of foreign affairs when he was vice president. He became one of the founding members of the United Nations, Pacific Treaty, which paved the way for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Motorist robbed in traffic jam

CAMP MELVIL RIVERO, BAMBAN—Two unidentified armed suspects robbed a motorist of personal belongings and cash while his vehicle got stuck in a traffic jam at the Mabalacbla Highway in Barangay Sto. Asuncion, Sto. Tomas town Friday.

Supt. Israel Tacsan, Sto. Tomas police chief, identified the victim as Jose Nieves, 45, purchase secretary of the Medan Manila Company Inc. and resident of Ibaj, Laguna.

Tacsan said the traffic congestion stopped Nieves's vehicle that was heading to the highway's south bound lane at 2:15 p.m.

The suspects suddenly appeared behind the car and shot the window, hitting its left and front windows. One of the suspects forcibly opened the right front door and climbed a hidden.

Taken from the victim were his cell phone, an keyc and P297,600 in cash. Abaitos Alexander Lanitro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MISS EARTH VENUE
Fontana Leisure Parks in Clark will be the venue of the Miss Earth 2006 swimsuit competition. Signing the agreement are (left to right) Carousel Productions executive vice president Lorraine Schuck, Fontana general manager Tony Biggs and Fontana PR director Arlene de Guzman. Miss Earth candidates witnessed the signing.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Lito Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Hernie G. Sabrosano

RP kids join World Robotics Olympiad

By Marlon Ramos
Tarlac City

KIM MARCO PEREZ IS NO ORDINARY senior student in high school. At 16, he has already designed and created 25 robots—from the "simple" security robot to the more complex designs, including one that can make coffee.

What's more surprising is that he learned about robot designing only two a year ago when he joined a robotics class. The course was compulsory for Grade 5 students and high school juniors at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Fath) in Tanauan City in Batangas.

"I [once] thought making robots was really difficult. But when you start to learn its basic principles, like programming, you will start enjoying it," Perez said.

Four of his latest creations are among the 11 humanoid robots that will represent the Philippines in the World Robotics Olympiad to be held in Nanning, China tomorrow until Sunday.

FRANCISCO. Gabriel Muñoz (left), Kim Marco Perez (center) and Dan Joseph Garcia, all high school students of the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City in Batangas, are competing in the three-day World Robotics Olympiad in Nanning, China, which starts tomorrow. (INQUIRER photo)

Entry

Perez's design, which he created together with two first year high school students of Fath, will be one of the six official entries of the country in the three-day event.

His group earned the chance to join the competition by topping the open category of the 5th Philippine Robotics Olympiad held on Oct. 12 at the Ateneng Tawo Center in Metro Manila.

At such a young age, he and his teammates—Dan Joseph Garcia and Francisco Gabriel Muñoz, both 15—will be up against much older and more experienced robot inventors from all over the globe.

Despite the odds, an assistant of Intelcon can compete their hopes of becoming the country's first winner in the prestigious international robotics contest.

"We're just excited to show our creations," Perez said as he held one of his robots. He declined to detail their entry for security reasons.

Perez dreams of designing a robot that can help rescuers and firefighters in their perilous profession.

Medina Placino, Fath robotics instructor, said the school started to offer robotics in 2002 when its students won the 1st Philippine Robotics Olympiad. "The [school officials] wanted us to join the competition before offering the course to the students to test the reliability of the robotics class (which we were just developing then)."

In that competition, the school topped both the regular (elementary) and open (high school) divisions.

In the regular category, the students were to make legged robots that can play soccer and basketball, while in the open division, the contestants were to design "obstacle robots."

Placino, who also coaches the robotics team, said that the robot created by the student scored 25 points in a two-minute stretch—more prolific than any other professional basketball players.

Since then, the school has won each edition of the annual event in the open category. Last year, it placed fourth in the world robotics competition held in Singapore.

Guy Francisco, Fath vice president for institutional relations and public affairs, said the school would be the only one with mandatory robotics classes in elementary and high school.

Fath was also the first in the entire Calabarzon to form a robotics team, she added.

Making a robot

At the start of every robotics class, the students are asked to design their own robots by using toy parts, Placino said.

The school provides the set of Lego robots. Two kits are given to every section and each kit, costing P35,000, can produce four different robots.

Because the robots featured in robotics olympiads and in their robotics class are made up of Lego parts, the children's alone that are much easier to draw than building metal robots usually seen on television, Placino said.

"It's actually like playing Lego. The difference is that you just have to make your own robot design. And make a program," she explained.

Lego robots are also easier to build and are less complex than metal robots, she said.

After making a design, students are taught to create a computer program based on the task that their teacher would ask them. Through the software, the students are able to program the robots' characteristics.

The programs are translated to the RCX, a microprocessor considered the brains of the robots, through an infrared transmitter. The RCX are then plugged to the robots.

Values

Francisco said the school decided to include robotics in its curriculum after observing its positive effects on the values among the students. "Robotics promotes teamwork and creativity," she said. "It also hones the programming and engineering skills of the students."

She also proudly said that all robot inventions of the students "have something to contribute to the betterment of the community." One of them can help farmers roast their crops.

Francisco noted that all participants in the yearly robotics competition were public schools from Metro Manila. "We wanted to show that even in this part of the country, there's a school that's keen on [promoting] advanced technologies among its students," she said.

Since 2002, more than 200 elementary and high school students have enrolled in Fath's robotics classes every year, producing an average of 11 robots a year, Placino said. This school year, 2722 students, including 93 Grade 5 pupils, are taking the course.

Placino said Intel went had already paid off. "The students in my class used to cry because they were having a hard time designing a robot. But now, they are more active and interested with the subject," she said.

Because some parents of the robot grade levels also wanted to join the class, the school decided to offer a summer course.

Francisco said the course had also been introduced to the engineering students.

Support

Despite its efforts to develop robotics among the students, Francisco admitted that the school had not received any support from the local and national governments.

She lamented that the parents of students who will be participating in the World Robotics Olympiad never left to shoulder the financial requirements of their children. As of last week, they had yet to receive any financial help to fund the trip to China.

Fath student sends P62,000 to finance their machines and participation, she said.

"To be able to reach our goal of becoming the world champions in robotics, we really need support from anybody, be it politician or private individuals," she said.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
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INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

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BLK	LOT	DESCR	AREA (sq)	MODE
A1	1	comm	4,760	SALE ONLY
A1	2	comm	3,462	SALE ONLY
A1	3	comm	2,988	SALE ONLY
A1	4	comm	2,971	SALE ONLY
A1	5	comm	2,971	SALE ONLY
A1	6	comm	2,971	SALE ONLY
A1	7	comm	2,971	SALE ONLY
A1	8	comm	3,000	SALE ONLY
A1	9	comm	3,000	SALE ONLY
B4			5,402	SALE ON LEASE
B5			5,401	SALE ON LEASE
B6			14,384	SALE ON LEASE
TOTAL			51,334	

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ii. Government corporations including GOCC/government financial institutions certified true copy of the charter creating it, the declaration of other incorporation papers from the SEC and other documents to prove that it is a government owned or controlled corporation (for sale and lease)
iii. [illegible]
iv. [illegible]
v. [illegible]
vi. [illegible]
vii. [illegible]
viii. [illegible]
ix. [illegible]
b. Proposal envelopes for each property, sealed and properly labeled as to the desired number of lots, property and the proposed mode of acquisition (i.e. cash sale, lease) and must include the corresponding bank deposits in the form of a cashier's or manager's check payable to PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY and drawn from any commercial bank. Take note: in case of lease, "10% of offer ... Lease offer submitted by all sealed bids. (illegible) lease for the property. Interested parties may submit proposals for several properties.
2. Only pre-qualified offerors shall be invited for negotiation.
3. Copies of the Technical Information and Development Guidelines may be obtained from the Marketing Department, 7th Floor, Delgado Towers, 335 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the period 17-24 November 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY.
4. Bidders' misrepresentation and/or breach of warranty made in the Prequalification Documents and Proposal shall cause the forfeiture of the bonds deposit in favor of the PRA. The forfeiture of the Bonds Deposit shall not bar the PRA from pursuing all other remedies available under applicable laws.
5. PRA reserves the right to reject any proposal or waive any defects or formality, impose additional terms and conditions and accept the proposal most advantageous to the Government.

For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department at the above address and at telephone numbers 811-6777 or 10 (look-thru line) and 813-7104 and 811-2281 (direct lines).

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STA. LUCIA'S Dennis Espino tries to wriggle out of the tight defense put up by Coca-Cola's Allan Salangsang (right) and Will Antonio in yesterday's game.

Realtors blast Tigers for 8-2 record start

By Manang R. Castillo

STA. LUCIA WOKE UP AFTER ALMOST BLOWing a 20-point lead to ruin Sarah Coca-Cola, 100-91, last night and keep the solo lead in the Talk 'N Text 30th Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Rookie Kelly Williams keyed the Realtors' early breakaway with 19 of his 25 points in the first half and Marlon Aquino joined Nel. Iver Gonzales in completing the job as Sta. Lucia improved to a franchise best 8-2 mark.

"It was because of our defense that we created such a huge lead," Sta. Lucia coach Alfredo Chua said. "And it was our fault that they (Tigers) were able to come back. We just relaxed on defense."

The Tigers, who came into the game losers of their last two games and four of their last five, dropped to 3-7 overall, but is still ahead of the nine-cheating slacks here.

Sta. Lucia led, 86-57, after a Dennis Espino layup late in the second period.

But Coca-Cola did not simply roll over and die, creeping within 76-70 early in the fourth period after rookie Joseph Yeo, who finished with a career-best 28 points, completed a three-point play off Kenneth Duremdes.

Mac Cahagnet also stepped up in the Sta. Lucia, shooting 4-9 of his 16 points in the final two periods, including eight in the fourth, which basically halted the Realtors' run.

Cahagnet, the team's erstwhile paralyzed, first hit a jumper and capped a telling 11-4 run with a three-pointer going into the final 4:40 which restored a 98-80 Sta. Lucia lead.

That proved enough to snuff the fourth set of the Tigers, who were led by John Arigo's 23 points.

San Miguel Beer bounced Red Bull, 84-78, in the second game in the doubleheader.

The scores

Realtors 100

Coca-Cola 91

STA. LUCIA (100)—Williams 25, Dennis 18, Cahagnet 16, Duremdes 12, Aquino 12, Ilar 7, Espino 5, Mendoza 5, Cabreg 2, Gonzales 2, Bugtai 0, Cuhi 0.

COCA-COLA (91)—Arigo 23, Yeo 28, Red 11, Miranda 9, Mendoza 8, Salangsang 7, Pascua 5, Ramos 2, Antonio 2, Cuhit 0.

Quarters: 29-12, 48-30, 70-54, 100-91

David nips German, gains q'finals

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—FIDE MSTER DAVID Arutinian prevailed over an ailing German Arkadij Naiditsch in the eighth round to advance to the quarterfinals of the World Junior 9-Ball Championship. David rallied from several four-rack deficits before scoring an 8-frame race Thomas Leitert Tuesday at the Rozelle hall of NSL Club in Sydney's 40 facts. Naiditsch missed a

Ukraine needed a four-rack lead to win 8-5 frames between reigning titlist Ahn Yun Geun of Chinese Taipei (Ukraine topped Ahn Yun Geun of Chinese Taipei, 7-5;

Aplus METRO
Editor Ever G. Dipasupil

Actor Manzano accused of mauling discs vendor

OMB chair says alone, he couldn't have done it

MANZANO: In hot water.

By Ethan C. Tordesillas Jr.

SHOWING DEEP SCRATCHES on his back and a bruise on his forehead, a 21-year-old man yesterday accused Optical Media Board chair and actor Edu Manzano of beating him up.

Manzano denied he was alone when he went to the Imasar area of the restaurant strip Malcworth on Morales Avenue in Barangay Ugong at about 10:30 a.m. to conduct an inspection. "I usually visit or conduct in our target areas alone first," he explained.

According to him, the vendor started to run away when he arrived but he still managed to confiscate two packs of pirated movies about to be unpacked. Two months were helped him load the sacks into his car, he added. "Nothing untoward happened," insisted Manzano, who said he was armed with an inspection order.

But Ubanan and relatives who accompanied him to police headquarters had a different story to tell. They said Manzano accosted the binata with two companions and forcibly took pirated discs from the vendors.

Ubanan said he was buying his cousin Aida Tomacruz-Cue some stuff in their stores, but Manzano suddenly grabbed him.

"He wanted beating me up and he even

ACTOR, A-10

Siblings defend dad linked to wife's murder

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CALLING THE CASE AGAINST THEIR MOTHER "absolutely ridiculous and unbelievable," the children of Media Library Corp. chair emeritus Ma. Victoria Sevilla Corpuz yesterday narrated their frustrations about the police investigation that led to the filing of charges against their father, the principal suspect in the killing.

In a statement yesterday, five Corpuz children rebutted the police for blaming their father, Dionisio, for the murder of their mother on Sept. 8, as they requested checks and dismissal of the filing of parricide charges against him in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office.

"Our illness was suddenly and shockingly taken from us barely two months ago and yet we, the bereaved family, are being forced to undergo further hardship, as if the loss of our Mama was not difficult enough," said Dionisio's siblings Jhoni Lorenzo, Debra Andrea, Jose Carlo, Miguel Raymundo and Maria Victoria Gil.

"We simply cannot accept the fact that our family, our sole remaining parent, might even be incarcerated just because a per

SIBLINGS, A-10

DID YOU KNOW

THE LIONS Centre of the Philippines in Quezon City is a nonstock, nonprofit corporation established to help fight lung and pulmonary diseases in the country, and to provide care for more difficult cases. It was created in 1981 by then President Ferdinand Marcos through Presidential Decree 1923. The decree also appropriated P25 million for the center's initial operations.

Tragedy struck the Lung Center in May 1988 when a "whirlwind fire killed over five dozen persons, most of them patients in the surgical and medical intensive care units. The fire also damaged 80 percent of the building, which underwent repairs and recovered on March 7, 1990.

Cyril Bautista, Inquirer Research

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HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE THREATENED

Save old theater, NCCA asks Manila

GALAXY Theater: Still standing, for now. GUY ANTOLAGA

By Jerome Aning and Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) remains hopeful that the Manila city government will stop the plan to demolish the Galaxy Theater on 22nd Avenue designed by National Artist Pedro Antonio...

NCCA executive director and Presidential Adviser on Culture Ricardo Gudiño Alvarez told the Inquirer the last yes to receive a reply to the letter they sent to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"We can only make an appeal to the city government to reconsider with the owners as the building can somehow be preserved, we really cannot order the private owners to stop the demolition," she said in a phone interview.

"We hope we can reach an arrangement that would preserve the original design of the building, but it's really up to them (the owners)," Alvarez added.

Sought for comment, Atienza told the Inquirer that his office has yet to receive an application for a permit to demolish the theater.

But should an application be filed, he said he would carefully study the matter, in consideration with the National Historical Institute and NCCA.

Among the things that he would look into would be the building's historical value, Atienza added.

Galaxy Theater, designed by Antonio using the Art Deco style, was one of the major attractions of the popular theater district in old downtown Manila.

It had an original 1,970 wide-screen projector, built in Belgium in the '30s, which became popular in international cinemas until the '70s.

Architect Richard Buenviaje of the NCCA's National Heritage Office, said it's the fact that Galaxy had not been torn down was good news by their group's conservation efforts.

"We hope this will become a gauge of City Hall's commitment to heritage preservation," he added.

METRO
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Drivers up for PhilHealth coverage

By Riza T. Olchondra

DRIVERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY vehicles will soon enjoy health benefits under an agreement being worked out among transport groups, PhilHealth and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Under the program initiated by the Makabayang Operation Lingkod Bayan (MOLB) or MODA and endorsed by Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Thompson Lantion, drivers will only have to pay P50 a month to avail themselves of PhilHealth benefits.

The PCSO, on the other hand, will shoulder the P80 counterpart contribution for each driver who will enroll in the program.

PhilHealth benefits include inpatient hospital care, including room and board; use of surgical or medical equipment and facilities; inpatient or outpatient services from health care professionals; diagnostic, laboratory and other medical tests; administrative or purchase of prescription drugs; and emergency and outside services.

The benefits may also be enjoyed by a driver's dependents, including his spouse who is not receiving a pension, his wife or unemployed children below 20 years old.

MODA president Orlando Marquez said that while the PhilHealth program will initially be opened only to Metro Manila jeepney drivers because they are working in a high pollution environment, transport groups in the provinces will eventually be included in the program.

Lantion said he would also endorse the program to include bus and taxi drivers.

The more, the merrier in this race

By Cliff C. Cabarrubias and Tina G. Santos

MAGALANANG IS PINING in hopes on the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to maintain its control over the country's capital in the face of upcoming heavyweights running for mayor next year.

"We know that Manila is under an administration mayor, Mayor Atienza, and since he is fielding his son, the administration is hopeful that an administration candidate will win," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a briefing yesterday.

Atienza is expected to tap his son, Amido—nicknamed Ali—a taekwondo champion, to run for mayor next year. Atienza is on his third and final term.

Last week, Senators Alberto Lim and Panfilo Lacson declared their plans to throw their hats in the mayoralty race.

The names of former First Lady Imelda Marcos and her grandson, Borgy Manotoc, and Mary "Jinggoy" Ong were also mentioned as potential candidates.

Despite the stiff competition he faces, Ermita said Makabayang was not overly concerned about the outcome of the city elections.

"The election is a political process. The runner he says who will be elected," he added.

Atienza has been one of the staunchest supporters of the President.

At the height of antigovernment rallies last year, he refused to issue permits to militant groups who wanted to stage protests in Manila, particularly in Mendiola which is near Malacañang.

Atienza, meanwhile, said he was flustered by the number of candidates who have expressed interest in his post.

"It gives us pride that a carnival of personalities has already expressed and even proclaimed their intention to run for the position," he said in a statement yesterday.

Siblings defend dad . . .

From page A1-7

...his investigation would not upend the time to conduct a legitimate inquiry," they added.

The siblings criticized PGI Bienvenido Robles for filing murder charges against their father, saying the policeman's "contradictory" statements that the alleged mastermind, it was outright incongruous, that failed to inspire trust" and that he "never came up with a shred of concrete evidence which could help shed light on our father's death."

In the case he filed against the victim's husband, Robles based the respondent's "possible liability" on his verbal claim that Gerardo committed suicide and his supposed threat to take a hit-character out and witness statements placing him at the crime scene.

But the children said their father never insisted that the death was a suicide and that, "Secondly, he never refused to take a lie-detector test. Thirdly, he has never been accused by any employee in the company," they added.

They said the "disappearing" police investigators fled the family to seek the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for a parallel investigation.

Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Makati police chief, said in a recent interview that the NBI probe was welcome, as he expressed confidence that the police "made a proper investigation." Robles could not be reached for comment.

The siblings further believed their father could not have committed such a brutal crime as he and his wife shared three decades of a loving relationship.

"Knowing our Ilocy and Mama all these years, and seeing first hand the deep and abiding love and concern with which they regarded each other, it is absolutely undebatable that Ilocy could be in any way involved with our Mama's death," the children said.

"They loved each other, and so, so much. Though our Ilocy is one of the strongest people we know, he also has the greatness of souls. He cannot even begin to imagine the immense pain he must be feeling right now," they said.

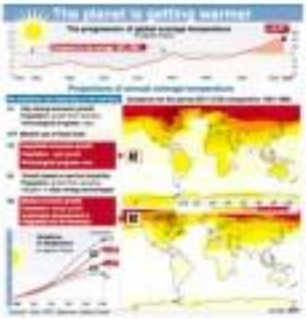
Actor . . .

From page A1-7

...banged my face against a glass display cabinet," Dumas told the Inquirer. He also alleged Manotoc, whom he claimed "looked drunk," even challenged him to a fist fight. Dumas' counsel reserved right to file charges, but he claimed nobody attempted to pacify the DMB chair.

Another solution added that Manotoc did not have the warrants needed for a raid. But the actor said his inspection order allowed him to confiscate pirated discs in Quiapo alone.

Some members told the Inquirer that the alleged meeting really happened and that they were surprised why Manotoc, who used to be "very diplomatic," behaved that way. But other members also claimed the complaint was just a fabrication and that the one-man raid was peaceful. Tata Ali, a vendor, said injuries like what Dumas sustained "are common during raids because of the resistance sometimes."



Annan appeals for action versus global warming

HARBOR—UN CHIEF KOFI ANnan on Wednesday demanded that world leaders give climate change the same priority as they did to wars and to curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Annan made the appeal as he launched a three-day gathering of environment chiefs, tasked with mapping up action against global warming.

In his valedictory speech to the annual meeting, the UN secretary-general painted a sombre tableau about the effects of climate change, especially on impoverished countries that have made no historical c.

And he warned the fast-shrinking minority of politicians or scientists who still denied there was any threat to "our of step, out of argument and out of time." Climate change imperils agriculture through drought and coastal cities through rising sea levels, poses a health threat by spreading mosquito-borne disease and could lead to billion-dollar weather calamities, said Annan.

"Climate change is also a threat to peace and security," he warned. "Changing patterns of rainfall, for example, can heighten competition for resources, setting in motion potentially destabilizing tensions and migrations, especially in fragile states or volatile regions.

"There is evidence that some of this already occurring, more could well be in the offing," Annan declared. "The message is clear. Global climate change must take its place alongside those threats—scarcities, poverty, the proliferation of deadly weapons—that have traditionally monopolized foreign ministers' attention."

Ministers or their stand-ins at the 189-nation meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are under pressure to spell out by Friday their next commitments for deepening cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The spotlight is being placed on Brazil, China and India—big populations developing countries whose carbon pollution has surged in line with their economic growth.

The European Union (EU) hopes these countries will signal they will join rich nations in making binding curbs to their emissions when negotiations start next year to reshape the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol after it expires in 2012.

The United States, meanwhile, which walked away from Kyoto in 2001, is being scrutinized for any gesture towards the pact in the light of last week's US elections, in which the Democrats wrested control of Congress away from President George W Bush's Republicans.

The United States by itself accounts for a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas output, although in position as No. 1 polluter could soon be overtaken by China, a major feature of coal.

Unconfirmed gases trap the heat's heat instead of letting it radiate out into space.

As a result, Earth's atmospheric temperature is rising, and many scientists are convinced this is already doing to confirm the climatic system.

The evidence for this comes through distant snow cover in the European alps, shrinkage of the Greenland ice sheet and Arctic ice cover, and a retreat in Siberian permafrost.

AFP

O.J. Simpson bares how he 'killed' wife

LOS ANGELES—FOR PLANS TO broadcast an interview with O.J. Simpson in which the former football star discusses "how he would have committed" the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend, for which he was acquitted in a widely watched trial, the network said.

The one-part interview, titled "O.J. Simpson: If I Did It, Here's How It Happened," will air Nov. 27 and Nov. 28 the TV network said.

Simpson has agreed to an "exclusive" interview with Judy Judy, Judith Regan, the network said.

"O.J. Simpson, in his own words, tells for the first time how he would have committed the murders if he were the one responsible for the crimes," the network said in a statement. "In this two-part event, Simpson describes how he would have carried out the murders he has vehemently denied committing for over a decade."

The interview will air three before Simpson's new book, "If I Did It," goes on sale Nov. 28. The book, published by Regan, "unconditionally describes how the murders would have been committed."

In a video clip on the network's web site, an interviewer says to Simpson, "You never 'I have never seen so much blood in my life."

"I don't think any two people could be murdered without every body being covered in blood," Simpson responds.

Simpson, who now lives in Florida, was acquitted in a criminal trial of the 1994 killings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

AP

S. Africa OKs gay marriage

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's parliament on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to legalize same-sex marriages, making the country the first in Africa and the fifth in the world to remove legal barriers to them, according to television.

The country's highest court ruled last December that South Africa's marriage statute violated the constitution's guarantee of equal rights. The court gave the government a year to alter the legal definition of marriage.

That left the government with three options: legalize same-sex marriages, let the court change the law by fiat or allow parliament to do the matter of actual enforcement.

Under the proposal approved by the Parliament, heterosexual and same-sex couples could register marriages or civil partnerships. In a concession to critics, the law also would allow civil officials to refuse to marry same-sex couples if such marriages conflicted with their conscience.

If the measure is to become law, as both sides said they expected, it must be approved by the National Council of Provinces and signed by President Thabo Mbeki.

In many African nations, homosexuality is still treated as a crime. Some imprisonment penalties for homosexuality date to 1950 and earlier. And African leaders regularly denounce homosexuality as immoral and a violation of the natural order and African culture.

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Car bomb kills 10 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A car bomb that exploded in the Sunni Arab city of Ramadi killed 10 people and wounded dozens more Wednesday, medical and security sources said. A security source said the blast occurred at 9:30 a.m. at the fuel station which is close to one of the entrances to the interior ministry in central Baghdad. The bombing was the latest attack in a wave of violence unleashed across Iraq, mostly in Baghdad, that has seen hundreds dead in the past 10 days. On Tuesday nearly 100 people were killed across Iraq, while 20 others were kidnapped from a ministry building in Baghdad in a brazen daylight operation.

AFP

13 detainees sue Rumsfeld

GUANTANAMO—A week after President Bush announced that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld would resign, lawyers asked a German prosecutor to investigate him and other officials for alleged war crimes stemming from the treatment of prisoners in military jails in Iraq and Cuba. The lawsuit filed with the German federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe on Tuesday names 11 other current and former U.S. officials, including Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, who it claims helped craft legal reasoning legitimizing the use of torture. The suit, filed by anti-rights legal groups on behalf of 12 Iraqi nationals—13 Iraqis were originally named—alleges they were subjected to beatings, sleep deprivation, withholding of food and sexual humiliation.

AFP

Reid is leader of US Senate

WASHINGTON—Democrats elected Sen. Harry Reid as Senate majority leader on Tuesday and renamed Sen. and her change in Iraq as they prepared to take control of Congress from President George W. Bush's Republicans. "I want you to the economy, Americans need change, and the Senate majority — is going to fight for change," Vice-President declared after his colleagues demonstrated by acclamation for the next 110th Congress set to convene in January. Democrats also won control 30-00 Nov. 8 When an independent Senate majority leader. He has been Senate assistant minority leader since January 2005.

Reuters

Thaksin in Bali for holiday

DENPASAR—Deposed Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Wednesday for a holiday, Thaksin, who was stopping en route Hong Kong airport to refer to Tuesday, was scheduled to fly privately to Indonesia and left for a holiday of rare unfettered speaking for walking reporters.

AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ebora

New traces of plutonium found in Iran

PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD OF IRAN declared Tuesday that his country's nuclear program was nearing an important milestone, even as international atomic inspectors reported that they had found unexplained traces of plutonium and that Tehran continued to be so uncooperative in answering questions that they had been unable to confirm earlier claims of progress.

Ahmadinejad's statements that Iran hopes[illegible] soon to master the nuclear fuel cycle came at world powers, suspicious that Iran is seeking the means to make atom bombs, are trying to agree on a regimen of sanctions. Iran says it wants only to fuel reactors and generate electricity.

"I hope we can have our celebration of Iran's full enrichment this year," Ahmadinejad said during a news conference in Tehran, apparently referring to a program that could do everything from extracting uranium ore from the ground to enriching it into reactor fuel. Iran's calendar ends in March.

In its latest report on the Iranian nuclear program, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Tehran was proceeding with efforts to justify uranium while refusing to answer basic questions about its atomic program.

For instance, the report said Iran had failed to provide full access to records needed to confirm its claims to have of having extended uranium to a level of five percent, which is suitable for reactors.

The report also said inspectors had made no progress in resolving the origin of previously discovered traces of highly enriched uranium, which can fuel atomic bombs. In September, the agency disclosed the discovery of the particles on a container from a waste storage site at Kuraj but withheld judgment about whether the material came from and whether it could be linked to a secret nuclear weapons program.

Finally, the report said inspectors had recently found traces of yet another unexplained particle—plutonium—on samples from containers at Kuraj and was awaiting a response from Tehran about its origin. Plutonium, like uranium, can fuel nuclear weapons.

New York Times News Service

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Most hostages seized in Iraq freed; 2 remain

BAGHDAD—MOST OF THE HOSTAGES seized in a raid by armed men on a Baghdad education facility have been freed by police but two are still being held captive, an official said Wednesday.

The during raid on Sunday saw gunmen dressed in military-style uniforms arrive at the Sunni-controlled ministry of higher education building in Karrada—a relatively peaceful area of Baghdad—in about 20 cars and round up dozens of employees and visitors.

"Thirty-nine people were kidnapped of whom five were visitors, 16 were employees of the ministry and 18 were guards of the building," Iraqi government spokesperson Ali al-Dabbagh told AFP.

"Twenty of them were released yesterday and 17 this morning. Two still continue to be held captive," Dabbagh said.

The interior ministry accused the senior police officers from Karrada, the area where the crime occurred, saying they "should be held responsible." Basil al-Ghazzi, spokesperson for the higher education ministry said AFP that those freed had not turned up for work on Wednesday.

"Some called us or some called through their relatives. They said they will not be coming to work today as they are still in a state of shock," Ghazzi said.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said the kidnapping was the result of a "conflict between militias." "What is happening is not terrorism but the result of a conflict between militias belonging to this side or that," Maliki told state television Baghdad Tuesday.

Higher Education Minister Abed Dhiab al-Ujeli described the abduction as a "terrorist act." "A large force arrived with many vehicles with tinted windows claiming to be police commandos and they clashed with the guards and then entered the building and searched all the employees and some visitors," he told the parliament. AFP

Angioplasty use in heart attacks questioned

OPENING A BLOCKED ARTERY WITH balloons and stents can be lifesaving in the early hours after a heart attack, but a new study concludes that it often does no good if the heart attack occurred three days earlier or more.

The findings should change medical practice, researchers say, and could affect as many as 50,000 patients a year in the United States. They say doctors should stop trying to open arteries in people who had heart attacks days or months ago and who are stable and not in chest pain.

Currently, the balloon procedure, called angioplasty, is used in many of those patients, along with stents, devices implanted to prop open an artery. When patients receive treatment late, it is often because they did not realize they had had a heart attack and delayed going to the doctor or hospital. In some cases, doctors may not realize the correct diagnosis right away.

The new study "should change practice, and I believe it will," said Dr. Judith S. Hochman, director of the cardiovascular clinical research center at New York University medical school, and leader of the study, which included 2,166 patients at 127 hospitals in the United States and abroad.

Hochman presented the results Tuesday at a meeting of the American Heart Association in Chicago. The study was published online Tuesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. New York Times News Service

WHAT'S INSIDE
Fil-Japanese ousts Dy; Arevalo scores/A23

SPORTS

ARUM DESPERATE

Bet-shrewd Mexicans start junking Morales

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—CASH votes, in the form of bets over the sports book windows here, continued to swell in favor of Manny Pacquiao, with the one-sided trend Tuesday forcing Top Rank big boss Bob Arum to step out of bounds.

In a desperate move to win back Mexican confidence in Erik Morales, Arum has dared to float bold claims on how his fighter would easily avenge his previous knockout loss to Pacquiao in the United States on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila).

HARD? Pacquiao does his routine exercise in hitting cold at the UNLV track and...

Nothing wrong with the move. Morales being Arum's favorite to take the stables.

But yesterday Arum did the unexpected after he invited himself to Pacquiao's afternoon workout and thereby wrecked the solemnity inside the closed-door Ironmill Jim Gym at the far off side of Euclid Street.

The loud intrusion, which one Arum biting cheap shots at Pacquiao, readily raised the hackles of trainer Freddie Roach.

"Mr. (Arum) has no business coming here and telling media people how (he) or would beat Manny," Roach, livid, protested.

Short of calling Arum silly Roach said the play was desperate.

Despite feeling deeply slighted, Roach has refused to let the incident

COMMENTARY

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Betting-shrewd Mexicans start junking Morales

Front page, A1

mark Pacquiao.

If the sports book trend doesn't change by Saturday, there would be fewer Mexicans trekking to the Thomas and Mack Center where Filipino rooters were greatly outnumbered by El Tecolito's backers last January.

Joseph Stipetitz, who claims to be a diehard supporter of the Mexican, reported that Filipinos here have handed his partner in San Diego.

"Mr. will be there on Friday, everybody's very confident," he said, adding that they would be joined by other Filipino groups from other states in a motorcade around the glittering gaming capital early Saturday.

From Rowland Heights in Los Angeles, builder Jose Ming Mendoza, formerly of Ligao City, continued to run the bet that, unlike last January for the second Pacquiao-Morales encounter, Mexicans this time have started to junk El Terrible.

"Mga Mexicans, si Pacquiao na ang pakerto (Mexicans now bet on Pacquiao)," he reported through a text message yesterday.

In order to lend Mendoza a hand, Mendoza's ang gained Filipinos might have to pick Morales (Photo top) but Morales, pero fanatic.")

Before dusk yesterday in the city now being dubbed by its denizens as Las Vegas, a gambler could collect only $100 if he placed $240 on Pacquiao and he won.

A $100 wager on Morales would pay a tidy $200.

Of course, there would be easy fives taken for a dozen bout, which, at 12/1, would yield $1,200 for a hundred bankroll the deck.

Roach, brushing off hints, fainted on an early ending.

"Morales tell ay to jump in and go for a kill really we are ready for that," Roach told the foreman.

He hated they are similarly prepared for a long dream battle.

"I don't think Morales would take a fifth. He would be too smarter to use if the fight goes past six rounds," shrilly Nichol. Pacquiao's strategy, explained.

Roach predicted an unhappy ending for Jones.

"It should be a knockout either in the 9th, 10th or 11th," Roach declared.

A Morales win by KO would pay $400 for a $100 bet.

Decision by knockout would yield a couple of hundred bucks for $100.

UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of a Manufacturer / Supplier to Supply and Construction of Test Facility for Light Sources and Luminaires (Goniophotometer with Rotating Mirror)
Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international manufacturer / suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and construction of test facility for light sources and luminaires (Goniophotometer with Rotating Mirror).

The project aims to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines. It will specifically focus on the promotion of energy efficient version of linear fluorescent lamps (LFL), high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, ballasts (low loss electromagnetic and electronic) and energy efficient luminaires.

Under the institutional and capacity building component of the project, one major laboratory will facility to be set up to the ability for performance testing of general lighting system (lamp, light sources and luminaires, including ballasts luminaires). The project field results from the measurements to be generated on this facility will be used for the following: allowing proper of the Philippine Government for support and development of local luminaires manufacturers and for efficient lighting applications.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Technical Specifications) may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso (PHP) 2,000.00 or United States Dollar (USD) 50.00 for international bidders, from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
20th Floor Pacific Star Building, BGC, Fort
6816 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901 9270 / 901 9273
Fax No. (632) 901 9280 / 988 4810

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to assist the bidding documents and submit proposals for and on their behalf.

The aforementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from November 16, 2006 to December 1, 2006 only. The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on December 4, 2006, 10:00 AM at the UNDP Office. All terms, conditions, specifications and related matters will be discussed during the pre-bid conference.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to corresponds or respond to the bidder for any reason or cause that may be assigned for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for the Contract.

(Sgd.) ETHELDRED B. CAMPUSO
Manager, DSSC

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR 2007 HAULING/TRUCKING SERVICES

ROACH FORECAST

Erik to go down in 9th-11th round

By Francis Ochoa

LAS VEGAS—HIS MOUTH UPTURNED into a fetid of a smile, his head lifted upward to give the appearance of a cocked eyebrow, his eyes showing off a glint of falsehood, Freddie Roach winked Erik Morales the foot of luck.

"He's going to wreck," said Roach.

To Manny Pacquiao coach who's hit in training, opting instead to fine-tune the technical aspects of his game plan against Morales, the American trainer slipped up on the verbal jabs, vowing that his pound ward will finish off the Mexican superstar before the final bell.

"I see him going the distance," said Roach, who has worked Pacquiao's corner for five years now. "Down the stretch, around the ninth, 10th or 11th rounds, we're going to knock him out."

Roach then threw in the qualifying statement: "We just have to be prepared for the early onslaught because I believe Morales is going to come out really strong in the opening rounds.

"If we can do that, the fight's over."

In three-run Pacquiao Tuesday afternoon, working the mitts with Roach, still flaunting the sport and posing that made decisions being written greater during the open workout club him the "most exciting fighter on Earth."

Tuesday's workout doesn't more on defensive techniques in the Filipino ring sensation cracked on ways to get you of right spots, parts study if Morales counterspin to the fists against the ropes early.

"We're just going through a couple of things, make sure we have the game plan drilled in our heads," Roach said.

The training session, attended by foreign journalists and photographers, was a far cry from the intense workouts at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles, where Pacquiao spars whenever little doubt as to what he would do to Morales on fight night on Nov. 18 (Nov. 19 in Manila) at the Thomas and Mack Center.

The fight is the third between the two fierce gladiators, who split their two wins apiece.

But Pacquiao still showed signs of the old roughness, going for extra time in some aspects of his training and turning in a real-decent session into a mere relaxing workout. Roach, however, said that fit he was for the grudge match dubbed "The Grand Finale."

He refused to be drawn into stating how and when he will finish off Morales.

"I don't want to make any predictions in this fight, except that I'm going to do my best to bring honor to the country," said the 27-year-old southpaw from Gen. Santos. "I feel like this fight is, you know, a fight like there's no tomorrow."

Pacquiao still went through his usual road work at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Pacquiao (442-3-2, 32 KOs) and Morales (49-6, 39 KOs) will reportedly be paid $3 million for this match. Morales, though, is bound by contract to pay $500,000 for every pound he weighs above the 130 limit for super featherweights.

"But I'm sure he'll make the weight because Erik Morales is a professional," Roach said.

Pacquiao also played around with photographers and posed in front of them, smiles flared. When someone remarked that he had Bruce Lee's physique, Pacquiao mimicked the late martial arts superstar's trademark nunchuckling, flicking laughter.

ROBERT Pacquiao poses in front of a billboard announcing his fight with Hector Velazquez this Thursday.

Bobby, Velazquez ready to wage war

By Sabres L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—BOBBY PACQUIAO and Mexican Hector Velazquez faced the media yesterday in their final joint conference before their WBC Continental Americas super featherweight showdown at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino here.

The two men for the first time at the Monterrey Room of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino made Top Rank's Bob Arum hosting the affair.

The younger Pacquiao (27-2-1, 23 KOs) will be defending his WBC-Continental Americas title (11-1-1, 11 KOs) for a 12-round fight.

"This is a fitting kick-off of the fight week," said promoter Bob Arum before introducing the two fighters. "Because always fights the heart out."

Arum likened Pacquiao to former IBF lightweight champ Freddie Pendleton, who had a two-year reign over a decade before winning the IBF lightweight title in 1953.

"Bobby, like Pendleton, is a diamond in the rough," Arum said. "He may be a good fighter, who knows? But he has his hands full against Velazquez."

"You watch out for this fight, this will be war," said Pacquiao through translator Greg Asmerom.

"If you want to be the best, you have to fight a Mexican," said Velazquez, who was accompanied by trainer Ricardo Torres and his brother.

Velazquez is the same Mexican Ildefonso Pacquiao stopped last year to his last fight before he fought Erik Morales for the second time in January this year.

Morales using Reyes gloves for early kill

LAS VEGAS—AS INDICATORS COME and go, none is as set in stone as the gloves Erik Morales will wear in his fight against Manny Pacquiao. Or as the one-time Morales wants pounding around the ring in an effort to stay out of the range of Pacquiao's left hook.

Or veritable Roach believes.

The American trainer says the gloves Morales will be wearing will confirm whether the Mexican superstar will indeed go for the kill early, as what the Filipino ring sensation's camp predicted.

"He ordered Reyes gloves and (the) Reyes (company) confirmed that with (Pacquiao lawyer) Nick (Khan)," said Roach.

Pacquiao will also use the Reyes gloves, which he wore when he stopped Morales for the third time in his career, in January.

The Reyes gloves are typically a puncher's gloves. Morales usually prefers wearing the Winning gloves because they have thicker cushioning.

"This time, if he's wearing them, it means he's not concerned about having his hand so much," said Roach. "He's concerned about an early knockout."

Another indication, Roach said, is the way Morales spars the ring. If he keeps the ring-around by engaging Pacquiao in a slower-hands bout, it means that the Filipino will have a battle in his hands. The moment Morales sidesteps the ring by dancing around, it means victory is at hand for Pacquiao.

"The only time Erik Morales will run is when it's all over," said Roach.

Francis Ochoa

NCA derbies slated

THE NATIONAL COURTS ASSOCIATION will host a season-ender starting Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Pasay City cockpit. Aside from another booster by Hotel Enc. Inn Tourism on Dec. 10 at the Pasay City cockpit, Aside from Arroyo and Puerto, other prominent NCA members include Former Pres. Joe Santiago, Hotel Manila Boy Abat, Nicky Valencia, Mayor Lito Atienza, Mandaluyong Ely Abo-Pinto, Mikhail Ex-Lands Calalio, Jerry Barrera, Ray Roberto, Benjie Inc. Paul Lyndon and Tony Lazatin.

'Bakbakan' semis on

SEMI-Pres. 157 b. H. 5 DIVISION OPEN: Federation of Dancehall Brandies' Federation Bakbakan II Shag Chesley carries collide in 60 flights starting at 1 p. m. today at the

SPORTSWATCH

Alvarez Gobuyan: Six participants have reached the finals with perfect six wins each: Mariah Morita and Jan-jan Rosales of BBC, Ann Tan and Ivan Aurora of Bilipas, Rey Gabriel and Wilfredo Gonzalez of Mandaluyong.

Members of the 12-Star Basketball Association will have their first game of the season on Nov. 19 at San Juan Gymnasium and run Nov. 25 in the Big Dome. All qualifiers will then battle it out on Nov. 22, 23 and 25 for the title.

LPC 'special' today

A SPECIAL "SHOOTOUT" will be held at LPC today starting with games at 9 a.m. today with 13 on tap fights at the Las Piñas Coliseum. The limited-slot elimination will be selected after every 10 fights, and receive P10,000 with the second and third placers getting P5,000 each. A total of 180 entries registered to cast under's event, with collegiate managers Mac Tolosa, 14, at an event-best early winner about 20 fights on, with entries closing at 5 p.m. today. The regular bantamweight bout on Monday is Sunday.

New sked at Batigan

THE NEW HAGONOY COMMUNITY GYMNASIUM in Hagonoy, Bulacan will host its first basketball season of 10 days, Saturdays and Sundays, starting Nov. 25 and ending Dec. 3. The following games are at stake: PRELIMINARY sessions and below 1 (7:30) 2 (8:30), PRELIMINARY (7:30) and PRELIMINARY (8:30). More than 100 participants from the Bulacan town area are in the tournament, and headlight spectators Ronnie Lazaro, Jerry Ang and Ben Simbulan. For inquiries, call 894-2574, 883-4568 or 892-6812.

Archers rip UST Tigers

By Jane Navarro

[illegible] once it gets back in midform.

Serving notice of their championship potential, the Green Archers rebutted reigning UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 75-51, yesterday in the 68th-flying Y Hemingway basketball Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Rochelle Villanueva tallied 13 points while Rhea Rhea Bautista added 13 points and 11 rebounds as the unbeaten Archers extended to a three-victory flurry virtually hooked them a semifinal ticket.

"We're still gauging for form," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "It's been almost a year since we played in this kind of competition."

San Beda's NCAA champion Red Lions also played with less fire and homered to by Eastern Tennessee, 97-82, in another game.

Janice Mariñon fired 14 points and Ritchel Pantoja had 11 points and 12 rebounds as the defending University of the East Warriors pulled off an 86-74 win over the Ateneo Blue Eagles. The Eagles absorbed their third consecutive defeat.

The scores:

First game:

ADMU (74)—Villanueva 18, Quek 12, Mallonido 11, Ilao 11, Go 8, Cua 5, Montano 5, Tang 3, Arenas 2, Abreu 1, Nolasco 0, Ladi 0, Sangalang 0, Serrano 0.

UST (75)—Bautista 13, Galang 12, Cruz 8, Zuno 7, Abreu 6, Rivas 6, Cortez 5, Flores 5, Dela 2, Cortez 2, Jacinto 1, Ibardolaza 1, Taylor 1, Mendoza 0, Pantoja 0.

Quarters: 21-18, 33-37, 57-51, 75-51.

Second Game:

UE (86)—Martinez 18, Quiwa 12, Vergara 11, Buenaagua 8, Antonio 8, Longcop 7, Tiam 7, Lim 5, Gregorio 4, Acuna 3, Javier 2, Ocampo 0, Aragon 0, Aquino 0.

ADMU (74)—Mariñon 14, Bautista 13, Villalobos 11, Dizon 8, Gonzales 6, Manzanero 5, Adamos 4, Nepomuceno 3, De Guzman 2, Estrabillo 2, Agustin 2, Bautista, Bautista 0, Ilao 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 34-32, 61-52, 86-74.

ABOVE Rulex Sagolsog in obvious pain as she performs despite an injury in the horizontal bars. [illegible]

RP gymnasts end up last; Malaysia tops team event

By Jasmine W. Poyo

A REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE ON THE FLOOR exercises failed to salvage the Philippines' campaign in the 12th Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Malaysia, displaying strong performances in the vault and balance beam, raked the team event with a cumulative score of 159.95 points.

Singapore finished second with 158.14 points, while Thailand settled for third with 154.75 in the five-nation tournament.

Patricia Hizon, the Philippines' top bet in the artistic event, performed a solid routine to claim the top spot in the floor exercises with 7.8 points.

Valentin Ramos Sagsiong, the 15-year-old daughter of former Sen. Rene Saguisag, bucked a knee injury to secure second place in the floor exercises with 7.75 points.

But the young pair's efforts weren't enough to carry the national junior team that struggled in the vault and uneven bars.

The Philippines tallied only 103.05 points, 10th-listed team behind Indonesia at 112.00.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Men and Women's Artistic (Apparatus Finals)
3:15 p.m.—Awarding Ceremony

Santos noted that Ramos competed despite pain in her lower back, neck and wrist.

Deledio Day da Fiel of Singapore, banking on her strong performances in the vault and balance beam, bagged the gold with 38.35 points in the individual all-around.

Malaysia clinched the silver and bronze through Lee Hui Xin who garnered 30.05 points and Ain Sahfiah who earned 30.

"We're still looking for Patricia, we're hoping to do better in the individual (apparatus competitions)," said Santos.

Ramos and 16-year-old Iya Arana will compete in the individual events today after finishing first and second overall among the Philippine bets.

"They're fighters," said women's artistic coach Noel Bautista of his five-man crew. "But, that's really the competition, you can never tell if they'll perform good or bad. The team is also recovering from injuries. But they really tried their best."

Hapee-PCU guns for lead today

THE HAPEE-PCU fourth Masters shoot for the moon tonight against the Kettle Kings-UST Tuyo today in the PBL Silver Cup at the UST gym.

Inspired by their 77-71 win over rivals of the Barbour Cooler Pure Masters last Saturday, the fourth Masters are slightly favored to win it all, but Coach Abe Tiburcio, who is hoping for a change of fortune in their return to their own turf.

The Pure Masters will try to bounce back and to salvage their collision with guest team Ideal and Mayor Chavit of Ilocos.

"I hopefully we'll just surprise everyone," said Ideal and Mayor coach Lawrence Chongson.

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee-PCU	1	0
Zesta	1	0
C. Pacific	1	0
Toyota Otis	1	0
Mail & More	0	1
Ideal	0	1
Magnolia	0	1
Kettle Kings	0	1

GAMES TODAY
(UST Gym)
First game—Mail and More vs Ateneo Lawyers
4 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Kettle Kings-UST

Fil-Japanese ousts Dy; Arevalo scores

MARI JESSICA CARIE OUT TRIUMPHANT is a match between three firefighters with Filipino roots in the $50,000 Subaru-ST Women's Classic 2 yesterday.

The 22-year-old Fil-Japanese beauty overwhelmed Fil-American Denise Dy, 6-1, 6-3, heavily displaying her love home at the Wack Wack golf course.

"I missed feeling well because of a cold, so I just tried to hit the ball," said the unseeded Hizon, who finished tackle school at the exclusive Pajaka Women's High.

Hizon, the youngest among three children of a Japanese businessman and a Filipina from Pili, Camarines Sur, said she expects a tough match in the second round against Chinese Dina Shiming, who cuffed off 6-4-6, 6-3, 6-4 upset win against third-seeded Hilly Sandman of the United States.

The 17-year-old Dy, who is playing in the Subic stage Games next month, also lowered out in the first round of the Classic 1 competition last week.

"It say that I only played 46 percent out there," Dy said, claiming she has been real trying hose odds this past week.

Filipina Joel Garcia Mae Arevalo, trying to make up for her early exit in Classic 1, advanced after a 7-5, 6-4 triumph over China's Jin Zheng.

The top-ranked Arevalo arranged a second round battle against another Chinese, Dong Nan, after disposed of Filipina wild card Noelle Nikki Zaldua, 6-1, 6-0, 6-4.

Zelotes also struggled with partner Noelle Catalan at the doubles, bowing 6-1, 6-0 to Sandman and Shannon Dan of the United States.

"Really threatened and Shine Rogan into homer Cone after a 6-7, 6-4 loses to South Korea Shin Jung-sun and Lim Sun-ok, who both won their singles matches as well.

Kim regained competitor Chan Seung-hee, 6-4, 6-0, while Lim triumphed over Shannon Maja Kamble, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

Arevalo will meet Chinese Dong Nan, a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 winner over Zelotes.

In other matches, Korean Kim Jung-hee eliminated sixth-seeded competitor Chan Seung-hee, 6-4, 6-0. Lyne Kang-hee

TOP seed Czarina Mae Arevalo [illegible]

Ozamiz tops Bacchus five

OZAMIZ CITY—HOLDING TO LIST GRADE Cebu Hotel Bacchus Hotels Center San Juan, 103-74, Tuesday to keep the lead in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament here.

Ex-pro Bruce Ilustre led Ozamiz with 14 points as the two-time champion coasted to fifth win in as many games.

The visiting team of businessman Oliver Serrano and San Juan Mayor Jr Ejercito was in the game only in the first quarter, where it trailed by two, 26-24.

After that, the 12th Metro export of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog unloaded 21 points to pull away for good, 51-30.

Ruel Limpoco and Leo Gonzalez scored 11 points apiece to back up the high-flying Dacks.

Scores:

Second Game: Ozamiz 51, Limpoco 9, Gonzalez 9, Ilustre 8, Ejercito 7, Ilustre 7, Ilustre 6, Ilustre 5, Ilustre 4, Ilustre 3, Ilustre 2, Ilustre 1, Ilustre 0, Ilustre 0, Ilustre 0

SPORTS

Federer withstands Roddick onslaught

SHANGHAI, ZOGER FEDERER survived a furious onslaught from Andy Roddick at the Masters Cup on Tuesday but defending champion David Nalbandian was facing an early exit after his second loss.

Nalbandian dropped the first set against the big-serving Roddick and saved three match points in a tense second-set tie-break before running out the 4-6, 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 winner.

The match made the 2003 and 2004 champion the first man to earn more than $7 million in a season and put him within touching distance of the semi-finals.

However, Nalbandian, who beat the world number one in last year's epic final, was on the verge of elimination after falling 3-7, 7-6 (8/7), 7-5 to Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic who fired a phenomenal 38 aces. AFP

IVAN Ljubicic celebrates his victory over David Nalbandian. —

Nuggets chill Heat

Shaq-less Miami loses anew at home

MIAMI—THE DENVER Nuggets beat Miami, 112-105, Tuesday to record their 3rd straight win and pile on the problems for the NBA champion Heat.

Miami's Dwyane Wade won his personal scoring duel with fellow 2003 draft pick Carmelo Anthony, outscoring him 37 to 33, but the Heat failed to overcome the absence of Shaquille O'Neal, who missed the game with a hyperextended knee.

O'Neal has played in just four of Miami's seven games to date, with the Heat tallying to 1-4 with the latest loss and second straight at home.

Denver rallied 21-40 at the end of the first half but took command in the second to improve to 5-3 after an 0-3 start.

"A week ago the media had us buried," Denver coach George Karl told reporters. "Now we're good."

Andre Miller added a season-high 26 points for Denver and had 10 assists and eight rebounds.

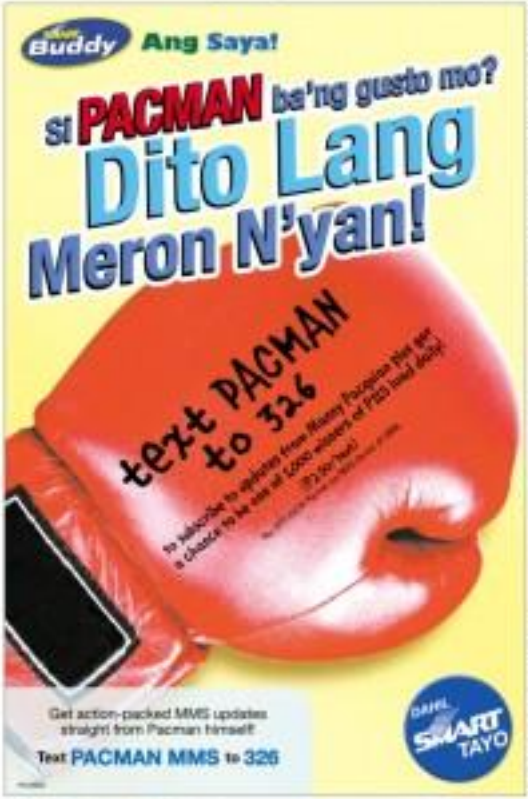
Antoine Walker had 22 points for the Heat, while Udonis Haslem had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Michael Redd reached 30 points as the Milwaukee Bucks edged the Atlanta Hawks, 103-101. Terrence Ley and Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 20 for the Hawks.

Rip Hamilton scored a career-high 42 points as the New Orleans Hornets beat the Charlotte Bobcats, 94-85. Hilton Newkirk had 21 points and 10 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks clobbered the Chicago Bulls, 111-95. Reuters

NBA Results

Milwaukee 103, Atlanta 101. Denver 112, Miami 105. L.A.C. Oklahoma City 101, Charlotte 86. Minnesota 105, Portland 89. Dallas 111, Chicago 95. San Antonio 107, Houston 91. Utah 112, LA Clippers 88. Golden State 110, Toronto 102.



Red Sox get first crack at Matsuzaka for $51M

TOKYO—JAPANESE PITCHER Daisuke Matsuzaka said Wednesday he was still trying to digest the record $51.1 million bid by the Boston Red Sox for the right to negotiate with him.

"No one could believe the amount," the 26-year-old told reporters at Narita Airport before boarding a flight to the US.

"I'm happy, but there will certainly be pressure. I'm not a Red Sox player yet, so I haven't thought about it deeply, but if a contract is done I want to visit the stadium."

Matsuzaka, who plans to return to Japan next week, would be fulfilling a dream, Seibu Lions serving owner Hidekazu Ota told a news conference.

"I'm very happy that Matsuzaka's dream of playing in the Majors will be realized," he said.

The Red Sox have 30 days to strike a deal before the Seibu Lions can receive the full $51.1 million. The bidding battle for Matsuzaka had been the subject of intense speculation in the United States and Japan over the last month. Reuters

MATSUZAKA

RP to host maiden Asian Long Distance Triathlon

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE FIRST Asian Elite Long Distance Triathlon, a double Olympic-distance race, on Dec. 3 at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The gruelling race—a 3.8-kilometer swim leg followed by an 80-km bike race and then a 20-km run—is expected to draw a hundred or so elite triathlon specialists competing in both the competitive race and a side event.

To be held together with the main individual event is an inter-club race with three members, best time to count; a team relay, and a sprint triathlon consisting of a 1K swim, 20K bike, 5K run and reserved for 14- to 16-year-old junior triathletes and beginners adults.

The event will be staged under the auspices of both the International Triathlon Union (ITU) and the Asian Triathlon Confederation (ASTC), said Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Triap) president Tom Carrasco Jr.

"ITU is actively promoting long distance triathlon and Triap takes pride in the fact that we are the first to organize a race of this magnitude in this part of the world," said Carrasco. "We already have received inquiries from foreign triathletes who intend to join the event."

About P300,000 in cash and gift items will be won by the top three finishers in the men's and women's categories, the top three clubs and relay teams, and the top three age group finishers in the men's and women's divisions.

Entry forms are available at the Triap Makati office, Unit 514, Makati Executive Center, Legaspi corner Rufino streets; at POC office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, and at any Sports Concepts stores in Metro Manila.

Darts meet dangles P100,000

THE 8TH EDITION OF THE PINOYSPORT DARTS ning Pinoy 2006 fires off this Saturday at SB Mall, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

Organized by the National Dart Foundation of the Philippines (NDFP), the tournament is open to local and foreign darters. There is no entry fee.

The flattering Pinoy drives entries from seven (7) countries vying for a piece of the big money in terms of registered players. Attendance records are expected to be broken again, with members of 43 teams playing in the ongoing Robinsons Dart League also taking part.

Tournament organizers said a new crop of darters from leagues and clubs, as well as players from Mindanao and the Middle East will swell the tournament field.

Events on tap in the three-day tournament include men's Nine (9)-ear Handicap (born October 301, Hard Four Points Tests 701, Classified Draw Triples 701, Mixed Hard Doubles 301, Ladies Singles, and the main event, the Open Singles competition.

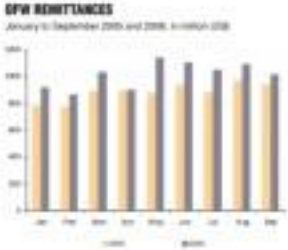
For inquiries, call 373-1041 or 0919-8220021 or log on to www.ndfphara.com.

The tournament is presented by Sportsdrome and Robinsons Department with All Mall as the official venue and Prime Channel as media partner.

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

9-month OFW remittances up 14.4% at $9.11B



Inflows in September still breached $1-B mark

By Doris C. Dumlao

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS SENT HOME $1.01 BILLION IN September, boosting the nine-month remittances to $9.11 billion or 14.4 percent higher than a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

It was the fifth consecutive month that OFW inflows in the country exceeded $1-billion mark. In September alone, remittances surged by 7.6 percent over the same month last year.

"The steady rise in remittances during the first nine months of the year reflected the continued deployment of Filipino workers abroad and the increasing access to the official modes of formal remittances transfers," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The major sources of remittances remained to be the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and Singapore.

"Demand for Filipino workers abroad is ex-

5 MORE IN A1

Shares fall for 3rd day as investors lock in gains

SHARES SLID FOR A THIRD day Wednesday after investors cashed in recent gains as the market reached 9-year highs.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index dropped 13.02 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,736.46, adding to Tuesday's 0.1 percent loss.

"The market broke below the 2,800 support, as many in the market to continue buying lower during the last session," said BPI Securities watcher vice president Spencer Yap.

He added, however, that the Philippines' economic fiscal and corporate outlooks remained positive, supported by the World

SHARES B2

Splash eyes Japan, Europe, Middle East

By Russel W. Domingo

REGIONAL CAFE FIRM SPLASH GROUP IS gearing up to penetrate the markets of south Central America mediums by offering complementary medications through virgin coconut oil, among the six umbrella group of companies in the country's history.

The United Coconut Association of the Philippines (Ucap) said Splash Holdings Inc., which owns the Thaisoft brand of VCO, was looking at establishing a foothold in Japan, Singapore, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Ucap said Splash made the decision after discovering majorities from buyers in these markets.

VCO is being positioned as a health product which are anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal properties owing to its lauric acid content.

SPLASH B3

HACIENDA ESCUDERO

Leisure venture to cost ₱10B

By Elizabeth L. Sandoy

LANDCO PACIFIC CORP, THE PHILIPpine unit of the Metrobank group, is pouring at least P10 billion into the development of "Hacienda Escudero" or the vote-rooster plantation in San Pablo City, Laguna, over the next 10 years, Landco president Alfred Ferrer Ongpin (r. said).

"Hacienda Escudero" is the latest addition to the ambitious joint-venture leisure project. The Escuderos, through Mila Escudero Plantations and Resorts Inc., own the sprawling 476-hectare plantation in Laguna that became the family's pride of more—the 30-hectare Villa Escudero, a primary tourist destination for Philippine culture and history to occasion viewing. The Escudero family opened the plantation to the general public in 1980.

The Escuderos decided to partner with Landco as developer of the 66-year ownership community to expand its concept in its first resort, "Villa Escudero," into the whole 476-hectare property to boost total tourism.

Hacienda Escudero will feature seven residential phases, a resort park, an 18-hole golf course, destination spa, commercial areas like retail shops, restaurants, "agritainment" malls as an winery, butterfly farm, botanical garden and Asian farms, convention center, suites, event town, unique facilities, shopping, investment facilities and hotel hotels.

Construction on the site will start this year.

The first phase consists of a 28-hectare residential farm community that will offer 275 lots ranging in size from 600 to 1,000 square meters and priced at P5,000 a square meter.

Landco controller vice president Ernesto Ordoñez said the first phase of the project may cost about P1 billion.

Jesus Jurgen said Landco's venture arm, Fargo Assets Corp., may also get involved in the hotel

LEISURE B3

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PSE Q1-Q3 net income up 12%

But income in third quarter dropped by 43% to P16.5M

By Elizabeth C. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) yesterday reported that its net income from January to September had increased by 12.6 percent to P148.4 million, from P131.8 million in the same period last year, boosted by revenues from higher membership and listing fees.

In the third quarter, however, net income fell 43 percent to P16.51 million from P29.5 million in the July-September period last year.

The PSE explained that the third-quarter drop was due to the higher taxes it booked in the third quarter. The higher taxes were brought about by the increase in its operating income.

The PSE said that it had adopted a conservative position when it booked in full the 35-percent corporate income tax during the third quarter.

Based on its financial statements, it booked a sharp increase in provision for income taxes worth P39.8 million in the third quarter from P2.3 million in the same period last year.

Also, the PSE reported higher operating income in the third quarter at P67.7 million from P60.16 million in the same period last year.

Operating income was largely pushed up by listing fees, which grew to P46 million in the third quarter from P32.4 million in the same period last year.

Aside from listing fees, the PSE derives its operating income from membership fees, annual fees and data feed commissions.

Operating expenses for the third quarter was also lower at P47.1 million from P58.1 million in the same quarter in 2005.

For the nine-month period, the PSE's operating expenses grew 32 percent to P203.4 million from P223.2 million.

Listing fees accounted for the bulk of operating income, growing to P136.17 million in the nine-month period from P135.2 million in the same period last year.

Operating expenses were also slightly higher at P167.19 million for the period from January to September, from P162.06 million last year.

Higher expenses were due to an increase in compensation and other related staff expenses; membership development expenses from golf activities and miscellaneous expenses due to depreciation made in the PSE Romandstone Inc. worth P3 million.

RFM earnings surged 69% in 1st 9 months

FOOD AND BEVERAGE FIRM RFM Corp. yesterday said that its net income surged 69 percent to P135 million for the first nine months of the year, from the P64 million it recorded for the same period last year, the company wrote to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a disclosure, the company said the positive trend reflected in its income was due to the performance of its flour, baked goods and ice cream businesses. It also benefited lately contributions from its milk, juice, meat and other businesses.

RFM said its consolidated net sales remained flat for the first nine months of the year as the company continued to replace marginal niche products with fewer but better-margin mass-market products.

Sales growth was also affected by typhoon "Milenyo" at the end of the third quarter, especially for ice cream and chilled meat products which require steady power for cold storage and distribution.

Nonetheless, RFM is banking its growth strategy on its drive toward the manufacture of affordable quality food and beverage products for the mass market, company officials said.

The food and beverage firm also said it is developing new products within the reach of the broader income classes who prefer getting value for money from their daily food purchases.

In line with this thrust, RFM last month launched what it calls its "people's milk," Selecta Fortified Filled Milk, which is fast gaining market acceptance for its exceptionally good taste and reasonable price.

RFM is also a strong market player in pasta and flour mixes, ready-to-drink fruit juice and teas, and processed and canned meats.

Its ice cream business is a joint venture with Unilever. The company is also engaged in property development through its wholly-owned subsidiary Philippine Townships Inc. — Elizabeth C. Sanchez

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites prospective contractors/consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Deadline of Submission of Bids	Bid Documents Fee
1 Lot Supply, Delivery, Installation of Signage Systems at LBP Iloilo Main Building	P1,000,000.00	November 15, 2006 1:30 PM	November 27, 2006 1:30 PM	P 1,000.00
1 Lot Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Signage Systems at LBP Law Office Building	P1,000,000.00	November 15, 2006 1:30 PM	November 27, 2006 1:30 PM	P 1,000.00

Pre-bid documents shall be available at the Financial Services Group (Iloilo) starting November 6, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable bid documents above.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at BAC Conference Room, 28th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, Iloilo at 1:30 PM on 15 / 7 November 2006.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and submitted according to the time indicated in the above-mentioned invitation.

For more information, please call the LBP Resources Management Division at telephone numbers 508-7000 local 7004, 7005, 7006 & 7007.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BAC Sec. to the BAC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF CABUYAO invites PHILIPPS registered contractors to apply for the following works:

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Deadline of Submission of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
1. Construction of Two (2) Storey Barangay Hall at Barangay Banay-Banay (Phase I) Including Fence Perimeter Wall and Drainage Canal (Re-Bid)	P7,000,000.00	May 14, 2007 10:00 AM	May 21, 2007 10:00 AM	P 5,000.00
2. Construction of Two (2) Storey Barangay Hall at Barangay Sala Including Fence Perimeter Wall and Drainage Canal (Re-Bid)	P7,000,000.00	May 14, 2007 10:00 AM	May 21, 2007 10:00 AM	P 5,000.00

The bid documents shall be available at the Office of Mayor's Office, Municipal Building, Cabuyao, Laguna from November 16, 2006 to December 04, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable bid documents above.

The Bidder shall submit the following documents: the original of the duly accomplished Eligibility Documents, Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in three separate sealed envelopes, all duly signed by the duly authorized representative of the bidder, with his/her full name, signature and address indicated on the sealed envelopes. Bids not accompanied by the required documents shall be rejected. Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bid documents shall be received on or before December 04, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Office of the Mayor's Office, Municipal Building, Cabuyao, Laguna.

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF CABUYAO reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Shares fall . . .

Bank's announcements that it has raised growth forecasts for this year sidelined.

PLDT was the most active, down 1.8 percent at P2,405 after the 1.5-percent drop in the company's American depository receipts overnight. Bloal Globe Telecom Inc. fell 0.5 percent to P1,340.

The market was sensitive to a series of banter this Congress "Gringo" Honasan on coup charges early yesterday as political considerations have been taking a back seat with investors preferring to focus on economic prospects, traders said. — AP

Business district, retail center to be included in ₱25-B enclave

By Raoul W. Dorotheo

THE DEVELOPERS OF THE 925-HE-tare Bonifacio Bay residential enclave in southern Metro Manila said work will be expanded to include a business district, commercial transport park, and retail center to provide employment opportunities to residents in the 66-hectare property.

Bonifacio Bay, said in a statement that the additions would ensure residents need for access and connectivity.

Bonifacio plans to create a "metropolitan hub of a scale that is unprecedented," which it claimed would be larger than developments including Ayala's Century, Fort Bonifacio Global City and Newport City.

A number of communities have already been established, including La Posada with single detached homes; Fleurdelaire with semi-detached homes; Brandville with a complex low-rise condos along with accompanying commercial establishments; and The Market with its 18-story to 26-story upscale condominiums.

Bonifacio Bay also operates a commercial center that houses restaurants like Gregorio's, Figaro, Brothers Burger, Manzanilla, Hap Chan and Dencio's Grill.

A center for Music and Arts can also be found in the commercial center, where residents can take music and dance lessons.

Future developments will include a boutique hotel, schools, hospital and a cultural center and museum.

"Bonifacio Bay would offer a combination of residential—both landzoned and zoned—commercial, business, and institutional enclaves setting inspiration from the San Francisco Bay Area," the company said.

"A second business district will be created exclusively for offices, call-centers and business process outsourcing and a commercial transport park will be integrated to ensure flexibility of movement."

The Bonifacio Bay development is being undertaken in partnership with the Lanuevo Martinez Posadas family which is known for developing residential communities.

The project can be reached through the Skyway and Sheridan exits of the Southern Luzon Expressway as well as nearby access roads.

3 to bid for Transco concession

Big names in local business, foreign utilities among the bidders

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has identified the three pre-qualified bidders for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco), which include some big names in local business and foreign utility companies.

Sources at the agency that will be vying for the Transco concession on Jan. 20 is the consortium of Tesitan Holdings Corp. (60 percent), Malaysia's Tenaga National Berhad (5 percent) and Bombridge Inti IV (25 percent).

According to PSALM, local firm Tesitan is represented by MR Investment vice chair Henry Sy Jr., United Laboratories chair Andrew Tan Jr., and San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang.

The consortium of Citadel Holdings Corp. (60 percent) and Trina IPA (40 percent), represented by Rogelio Singson, is also qualified to submit final bid documents on Dec. 20. The third group is composed of Aboitiz Power Corp. (60 percent), Meralco PowerGen Corp. (30 percent) and China's State Grid Corp. (10 percent), represented by Walter Brown.

PSALM said the three bidders were pre-qualified, following a stringent process of evaluation.

The three groups submitted their pre-qualification documents on Sept. 28.

The evaluation group was made up of PSALM and Transco technical teams, which made sure that all local bidders had enough technical and financial muscle to operate, maintain and expand the nationwide power grid.

"The financial criteria ensure that the technical partner, the pre-qualifying Filipino investor and foreign investor are all financially healthy," PSALM president Sherio Ongpin said in a statement.

According to PSALM, to be able to bid for the Transco concession, a bidder should have a shareholder or affiliate that has enough experience in operating and maintaining electricity transmission systems comparable to that of the Philippines—with at least 6,000 circuit kilometers of lines, a minimum peak demand of 6,000 megawatts, and a voltage level of 115 kilovolts (kV) to 230 kV.

Apart from the technical capability, a bidder should also have a member that has a net asset value or market capitalization of at least ₱300 million.

A pre-bid conference will be held on Nov. 20 to join the pre-qualified bidders an opportunity to clarify whatever issues and concerns they may have prior to the deadline for submission of final bid documents on Dec. 20.

Leisure . . .

Please page B4

project within Bacoodo Bonifacio.

Fargo Hotels has management contracts covering the Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego recreational and sporting clubs, and management of the Hue Marie Hotel in Tagaytay and the Pearl Farm Resort in Davao.

Xavier Burgos said Landev was also in talks with the Makati Medical Center on a possible participation in the project.

Landev, the resort arm of the Metro Pacific group, develops high-end residential resorts, luxury farms, first home residential developments, shopping centers and commercial parks.

Splash . . .

From page B1

The company made its first VCD shipments to Australia and North America in the second quarter of this year and more are expected in the coming months as demand for the product increases, Ong added.

According to the group, Splash continued to dominate the local VCD market with an estimated 60 percent share after just a year of its entry.

The Splash group launched Splash Nu-ceuticals Corp. as a vehicle for "introducing innovative nutraceutical products" like the country's first flavored VCD under the Thirst Refreshment.

It also recently started marketing PEO—generally viewed as helpful especially among senior citizens—for children.

Early this year, company chair and chief executive Rolando B. Bermejo announced that Splash Holdings Inc. was investing ₱300 million in a multi-product manufacturing plant that would enable the group to tap into the European and North American markets.

He had said that there was a product line and that a research team was studying how to produce the product.

Aside from VCD, the Splash product line includes coconut oil, deodorized coconut, biodiesel from coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut juice, and products made from parts of the coconut tree such as coconut fiber and coconut coir.

VCD exports to earn some ₱800 million from export this year on top of the ₱50 billion in revenues seen from local sales.

9-month . . .

From page B1

period to its narrowest ending in their high level of productivity and increased demand for their services. In particular, Japan's plan to build 600 new ships until 2015 presents a bright opportunity for the highly competitive Filipino seafarers in the future," Bitanga said.

Also contributing to the sustained expansion in remittances, the BSP said, is the increasing access to formal remittance channels complemented by enhanced remittance services to facilitate and expedite the transfer of foreign exchange earnings of OFWs to their families.

The remittance services include, among others, competitive service charges and conversion rates, swift modes of money transfer, more remittance centers and tie-ups abroad, and promotional marketing schemes with the onset of the holiday season.

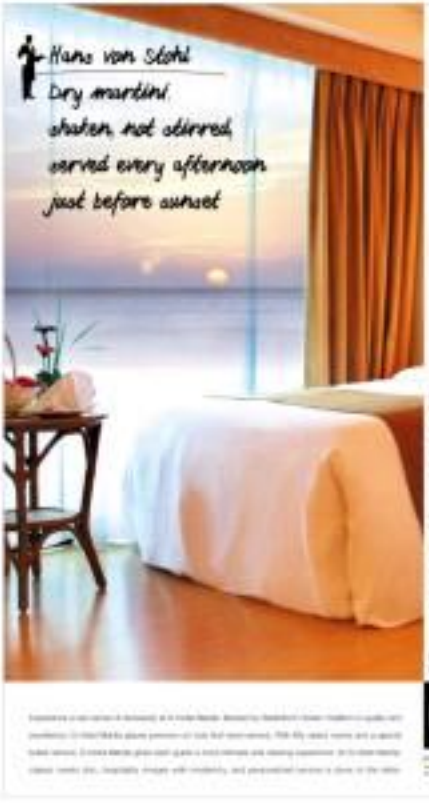
Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on new hires and rehires showed that deployment were up by 7.8 percent to 85,397 in September.

Land-based workers increased by 18.8 percent to 70,647, more than compensating for the 24.4 percent decline in deployment of sea-based workers to 21,460.

For the nine-month period, overseas deployment grew at a faster rate of 9.6 percent against 7.9 percent last year. The number of land-based workers increased by 9.9 percent to 457,642 while sea-based workers went up by 7.4 percent to 198,204.

A recent BSP study on remittances showed that the huge inflows were contributing to high investments, consumption and employment, debunking concerns that the OFW phenomenon may be doing the country more harm than good.

BUSINESS



Bear Stearns expects peso to hit 47 in '07

NY-based bank cites strong dollar inflow

By Dona C. Dunlao

NEW YORK-BASED BEAR STEARNS & CO. IS bullish on the Philippine peso, and has projected that a strong dollar inflow will lift the local currency to 47.40 against the US dollar next year.

The peso closed yesterday at its year-to-date low of 50.09 from Tuesday's finish of 49.91 at the Philippine Dealing System.

In an Oct. 27 commentary on emerging markets, the American investment bank said that despite the peso's sharp gains over the last few years, it was still a "laggard" compared to the Korean won and the Thai baht, which are both trending back to their 1997-1998 levels.

The Asian currency turmoil, which erupted in mid-1997, created the unprecedented drop in the value of the currencies in Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea and Indonesia.

Before the crisis, the peso was trading at the 26-to-1 level.

"We are very bullish on the peso, noting that 2006 will see yet another substantial current account surplus accompanied by FDI (foreign direct investment) inflows of as much as $2 billion—twice the 2005 level," the report said.

Based on the latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data, the country has captured $1.36 billion in net FDIs in the first eight months, up 20.4 percent over a year ago, as offshore investors grabbed expansion opportunities in manufacturing, services, banking and real estate.

Unlike portfolio investments that can be easily withdrawn, FDI flows represent investments in capital and usually labor-intensive businesses, such as factories, power plants and mining ventures.

"Thus, we see the peso as likely to strengthen further, reaching a range between 47 and 48 to the US dollar by the middle of 2007," the brokerage said.

"This should encourage more foreign investments in both Philippine equities and peso-denominated bonds. It is also exactly what President Arroyo needs to help her allies in the Congress and local governments do well in the May general elections," the report added.

Economic triangle develops 3 Mindanao towns

MINDANAWORLD

Joyce Rogers-Ibarra

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS POSSIBLE when three cooperating provinces accomplish more—or more, in order to consider.

Just look at the example of three towns that clustered themselves into the Jose Abad Santos-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle or JASCT.

The cluster was formed three years ago to support the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area.

The 12-year-old BIMP EAGA aims to boost trade, tourism and investment activities within the region.

JASCT is working on the same goals with Indonesia at the more trading patches.

Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani towns belong in Davao del Sur, while Glan is a municipality in Sarangani province's eastern town and port.

Jose Abad Santos has a total land area of 72,883 hectares and is the 2nd largest municipality of Davao del Sur.

Glan is approximately 40.45 kilometers from Sarangani's capital of Alabel, and about 36 kilometers away from General Santos City, the major urban center of the province.

The inland municipality of Sarangani has a vast coastline covering 94 kilometers. It is blessed with rich fishing grounds.

The growth area concept of BIMP EAGA was formally put into action with the formalization of trade between JASCT and Indonesia's North Sulawesi group of islands.

JASCT representatives went on a business mission last Sept. 11 to 15, and it was established the largest business delegation ever to visit North Sulawesi.

Covering 14,803.92 square kilometers, North Sulawesi is made up of six regencies and three municipalities, namely, the regencies of Bolaang Mongondow, South Minahasa, Minahasa, North Minahasa, Sangihe and Talaud, and the municipalities of Manado, Bitung and Tomohon.

The 62-member delegation went on a five-day trade mission to Indonesia to forge cooperation between local government units, match business groups and open direct shipping links.

Negotiations are on for JASCT to export laundry soap and cosmetics, Coca-Cola products, mango planting materials and other fruit seeds, construction materials (cement and panels), cigarettes, beauty, alcoholic beverages for consumption in hotels and restaurants in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, negotiations are underway for the importation of construction materials (tiles and steel), virgin coconut oil, essentials oils, rattan, wood furnishings, wooden houses, yellow soap, copra, furniture, souvenirs and handicrafts, charcoal and lumber, among others from North Sulawesi.

As a result of the mission, the new Glan-Tahuna-Bitung sea route opened on Oct. 5, 2006.

Some export products were shipped to and from North Sulawesi and JASCT using the direct shipping service (4 M. shipping).

The M. Almonte-sailed raft with 170 metric tons of activated carbon, papaya soap bars, Coca-Cola products, sweaps, among other products.

It returned to Glan carrying Indonesian goods such as cocoa, kinchay, dried fish, seaweed biscuits, charcoal and coconut.

Located in the southernmost tip of Mindanao, JASCT is just a six-hour boat ride away from Tahuna, the nearest group of islands in Indonesia.

The opening of the shipping route is seen as milestone in the history of BIMP-EAGA cooperation.

The sea link is seen contributing greatly to the progress of both regions as it is expected to lead to free and easy trade of goods in the region.

Usit Rogers Ibarra is a strong advocate for Mindanao; Chair, Mindanao-Sulu Business Inc; Member, PAFT, Mindanao Key Export Development Council; Chair, Joy Rogers Foundation; Former Chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to joy@joyfoundation.com

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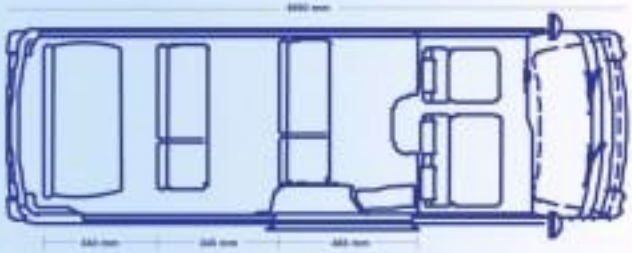

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SUDBUD of Tanjay served with tuba-tuba and mangoes

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Beyond 'budbud'

FOR A VISITOR, NO WELcome can be better than a taste of what a place is known for. In Negros Oriental, it's budbud (uuwas malagkit) with the thickest coabolate accompanied by a slice of rarangca.

My hosts in Dumaguete City, the Provincial Tourism Council, made sure that was what I had during the festival they called Buglasan, which was held for a month.

In the evening, food booths were full while entertainment shows were staged at the plaza. Restaurants had a chance to show through their buffet what they had on their menus. As in many places in the country, the main dish was anything grilled. At dinner, under any of the canopies on the plaza grounds, are heaped on bamboo trays pork and chicken.

Specialties

The Buglasan was also where to get specialties of the place. I was told by a Dumaguete native that Sans Rival was obtained from a shop named, well, Sans Rival, so the table of boiled Royan, called Boom by everyone, she kept playing us with her specialties—bibingka ng kabog and nangka pie.

Kabog is unlike as a grain also known as bird's seed. Negros Oriental is known for the budbud kabog, a wonderful tamale that, unfortunately, has a short shelf life.

Boom converted it to bibingka and the change to the way of cooking, the seed, made the stuffed last longer. And, because the province has an abundance of jackfruit, she thought of making nangka pie.

Her hospitality extended to nourishing items she packed herself and sent to us through the airline—turmeric vinegar, crunchy chicharon, empanada, and pastry with durian and mongko filling.

Those were the delights of my trip. I was in Dumaguete to judge a cooking contest. "Cuisine Cuebo as Oriental Negros" was a competition among municipalities and cities for the best dish the chosen cuebo would receive. No fusion. Just plain cooking using indigenous ingredients.

Good start

What a great and correct way for a first-time cooking competition in the province. Each entry also had to list the cost of the dish for a family of four. The low cost of each dish was unbelievable to those of us who live in pricey Manila.

Having lived and worked in Cebuano-speaking Cagayan de Oro, many of the terms were familiar—pasayo for shrimp and dahong for bamboo shoots. But there was more to learn such as pulpo for oc-

MYONG Ca

ISABEL "Boom" Rivera, specialty maker

What Mozart ate

Mandarin's Austrian food promo features a sampler of the composer's favorite dishes, as his 250th birthday is celebrated

SYMPHONY Assorted dessert sampler

ROASTED Deer loin in juniper berry cream with spinach risotto

CHEF Fritz Buergler of Zum Blorfenbrau restaurant in Salzburg

By Michaela Fenix

SOUL NOURISHING Amadeus Mozart music playing in the background would turn on the mood while we tasted the dishes in the Austrian food promotion at The Fresh of the Mandarin Oriental Manila.

The promotion, after all, intends to give a glimpse of Mozart's favorite food. It's in synch with a big Austrian event, the 250th year of the composer.

To finish this was the last time the favored chef had written a small book on what Mozart ate. Chef Fritz Buergler said Mozart loved to eat and listed to eat. His stomach included the food served in that era. Much of the food had to be converted to a lot of recipe, he said, because there was no refrigerator then.

Today, Austrian food is essentially the same except that with new equipment and trends toward lighter, healthier food, the procedures have been altered. So said Chef. Uh, chef Buergler will be showing just that at The Fresh.

The chef was here on occasion of the Mandarin general manager, Helmut Gschegen Buergler looked to attained what he said in chemistry he was told to take a vacation and he didn't know to stay had to work.

What included preparing a gala dinner of six courses last Saturday. Dubbed "Suite Mozart's Course," the dinner celebrated Mozartgasse or St. Martin's Day, honoring St. Martin of Tours, who was said to have hid then in a goose flock when entrusted to the because he was reluctant to accept the office to become bishop of Tours. He was discovered in the flock because the geese made so much noise. In translation, the saint supposedly had one of the geese for his dinner. Gone then. Mrs. 11 has been celebrated as St. Martin's Goose Day.

For our lunch that day, chef Buergler cooked the specialties of his family's restaurant, Zum Blorfenbrau in Salzburg.

Our appetizer sampler had cold cuts of game such as beef and chark, a duet (not me, guy) smoked pike and eel, with salad and different sauces on the side.

Our soup was made of forest mushrooms. Buergler related how his mother would gather the mushrooms herself from the mountains. She would purposely ordered guests who asked for directions in her mushroom finds. Ever. Biggest surprise when they couldn't find any.

To Bahamas and back

Like some chefs, Buergler worked elsewhere first before coming home to work in the family restaurant. He first cooked in a hotel in the Bahamas but found the place, friends and experience too limiting.

He moved to the United States working from hotel to hotel as chef de partie. Finally, it was time to go home to Salzburg where, later, he established a reputation as well.

His restaurant has won national and international recognition for its cooking of traditional recipes. The chef has been cited for his light and healthy creations.

One such healthy concoction was the quenelle of pike, a fish dumpling, with a dill foam and hors caviar (salmon roe).

For our main course we had a choice of marinated fillet of young boar or roasted deer loin. It did bring to mind that this is hunting season in Austria. The chef must have thought about how he should be back home because from mid-October, and for six weeks, there is a hunting and wild meat festival in his restaurant.

When dessert was served, it was difficult to decide the sampler of Austrian sweets—chocolate mousse, fried dumpling and chocolate wafers.

I did remember that in the movie/play "AMADEUS," MOZART's wife Constanze was offered a marzipan sweet called "Tripples of Venus." It wasn't part of the sampler and, unfortunately, I forgot to tell the chef (I he knew how to make them.

Oh well, there's always a next time.

HARVESTED Slice of young boar in tangy apple-lasik sauce

Coming home again to Pampanga

YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN. THIS way, said Cabalen has done just that. The "we all you can, eat all you want" buffet restaurant has returned to Pampanga—where it originated 28 years ago—with the opening of its second branch at the new SM City Clark.

The much-anticipated second branch in Pampanga is like a homecoming gift from owner and president Winifred Hontiveros-Ghani, who traces her roots and her restaurant's humble beginnings to Angeles City.

Cabalen SM Clark opened to the cheers of Kapampangan friends and families who graced the restaurant's blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by the Crystal Water of Asin, Sherwyn Regis, together with Angeles City Mayor Jeronimo Pamintuan.

The new Cabalen branch, managed by Winfred's son Jun Tiongson with wife Dianne, caters to the younger generation of Cabalen customers. The couple is here on expanding Cabalen's market to include not just the regular family diners but also the youth who look for value in their meals.

Through the years, Cabalen has been known for serving delectable buffets with over 50 dishes to choose from, including all-time favorites Kare-Kare, Kalderetas, Relleno, Adobong Camaron, Sinigang, Crispy Kalsol, Sisig, Inasang Dilis, Inihaw na Hito and Buring Hipon. Or, Kapampangan desserts are looked forward to by both young and old diners, such as Ube Halaya, Tibok Tibok, Bico and the make-your-own Halo-Halo Bar.

This month, Cabalen whips up a new and exciting offer when you book your par-

CABALEN specialty Bringhe

PHOTOS BY CONSTANCIO

ty with them through the "Treat Gift Away" promo. Simply book for a minimum of 100 persons and you can get an instant gift free! Be a baptismal party, get a free intimate stroller, for a birthday party, get free SMO glasses! And for a wedding, get free overnight stay for two at Island Cove Resort.

For the holiday season, Padong Pinoy at Cabalen features Pahiddik pudanges for customers who book their Christmas parties or catering with Cabalen. There are table prizes that include new toasters, DVD players to washing machines, as well as bonuses and gift certificates. What's more, regular customers get additional gift certificates if they book again this year.

Cabalen is located at G7 West Ave., Quezon City; 2/L SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L Bldg. B SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City; 3/L Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Thirdvia 3, Ayala Center, Makati City; G/L Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga; Bridgeway Ave., Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal; Chefs Avenue, Festival Mall, Alabang; and the newly opened Cabalen at SM City Clark, Pampanga.

For catering needs, call 4139509 or 9355522.

ALL Tiongson, Dianne Tiongson, Maryann Tayag, Claudio Tayag, Marital Nieves-Shani and Adj. Tiongson

GLORIA Ayson, Sherwyn Regis, Mayor Tetsan Lazatin and Esther Purungan

SMILING Sison, Esther Purungan, Jojo Suarez, lawyer Ray Suarez, Joy Fabe, Gloria Ayson and lawyer Augusto Pamintuan

ANNELKY'S Catering, which specializes in stuffed US Bronz Turkey prepared with corn, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and giblet gravy, offers the traditional Bronz Turkey Feast for Thanksgiving on Nov. 23. Call 7267231, 7269329, 7217992, 0928-930 6883 or 09 16-611 5216.

Mix-and-match Japanese menu

DINING OUT

SAMBOKU JAPANESE RESTAURANT AT BCH, Park serves authentic Japanese food at reasonable prices. The restaurant offers two mix-and-match menus. The dix course executive lunch at P500 lets the guest choose the appetizer, soup, salad and two main courses from a special menu. A seven course dinner set costing P800 also lets diners choose appetizer, salad, soup, salad, two main dishes and dessert. Families and barkads on a budget can dine to fulfillin chef bow itself. Thirty-seat to cater to six sitting up the specialty meal. Sankashi Japanese Restaurant at South Road corner Parade St., Port Park, Ortiga, Manila, has packages for corporate functions and office occasions.

TRUMPH'S Gourmet now offers all-new 11-spice breakfast platters (7–10:30 a.m. daily). Choose between regular and tasty: Sardines in Olive Oil, or try crisp fried Boneless Bangus Belly. Also available are Porkdinglish Cream Pork Tocino and Country-Style Meatloaf. The Filipino favorite is a medley of cooked beef, pork tocino and boneless bangus belly. Filipino breakfast comes with garlic fried rice, two eggs (any way you want them done), and coffee or tea. If you prefer some thing "not Filipino," you can get French toasts, omelettes, flapjacks, smoothies, fruit juices and freshly brewed coffee. Trumph's Restaurant also has branches at Glorietta IV, Alabang, Town Center, Greenhills Centerpoint, Tomas Morato, Eastwood Mall, Araneta Center Cubao and Old Mall of Asia.

AKEBI at The Podium considers new authentic Japanese menu. Dishes are prepared in consultation with Executive Consultant Chef Yoshihisa Shimomura. Call 917 7399.

PERI PERI CHICKEN (G/F, The Promenade, Greenhills) lets you enjoy an extended Oktoberfest celebration. It serves spit-fired Portuguese grilled chicken with rotisserie fry. The restaurant's "Oktoberfest" promo is valid until Nov. 30. It offers the following combo deals: Peri Chips Bowl for P200; Taco Platter Bowl for P500 and Chicken Strips for P308, plus beer bucket (1 x 1 liter) for P180. The restaurant is open for lunch, dinner and brunch/week. Prices inclusive of service charge.

SULO 46192,'S Grill Podium offers dinner buffet for P799++. The buffet includes appetizers, Filipino dishes, salad selections and desserts. Call 633-8333 loc 71 or visit/make reservations at the ph

SAMBOKEY'S Chicken Teriyaki

VIETNAMESE STEAMED ROLLS AND YONE'S THAI CURRY CRUSH (G/L, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati and U/F, The Podium, Ortigas Center) offers the freshest seafood and the best of Vietnamese, Thai and Chinese cooking. Starters include a la carte dim sum eats, Vietnamese Spring Rolls selections and Vietnamese Vegetable Crepe. Crustacia's own Asian Deep-fried and Barbecue Specials include Chicken Pandan, Crispy Golden Chicken, Thai Barbecue Chicken, Thai Barbecue Ribs, Grilled US-Rib Finger's, Kinglaw Spareribs, and Salt and Pepper Jumbo Baby Chops. It also has a wide selection of soups and salads. Call 7301663 or 6111001.

What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh?

THE MAGAZINE recently honored Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc (left), Inquirer's editor-in-chief and Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol (right), founding chairperson, as two of Asia's heroes over the last 60 years. The magazine cited Apostol and Magsanoc for standing up against a dictatorship and launching the Inquirer with its unflinching brand of journalism.

Answer the question above and get a chance to win P400,000 in cash and appliances.

Here's how to join:

1. Suggest an answer to the question, "What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh?" in 25 words or less. The best answer will win the following:
   a. Grand Prize: P40,000 in cash and P200,000 in various appliances*
   b. Second Prize: P100,000 worth of appliances
   c. Third Prize: P60,000 worth of appliances
2. Send your entry, with your answer, your name, age, address and telephone number to the following:
   a. Email: readers@inquirer.com.ph with the subject header "Eggie"
   b. Postal: "Dare to Win Prizes" c/o Marketing Division, PCI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Blanchard sts., Makati City, Philippines
3. Promo period is from November 13 – 30, 2006. Deadline of receipt of entries is on November 30, 2006.
4. All entries will be judged on a basis of originality, appropriateness of the answer to the question and creativity. Decision of the panel of judges composed of Inquirer editors, publishers or their duly authorized representatives is final and binding.
5. Winners will be announced on December 15, 2006 through a phone call and/or e-mail. Winners will be required to submit a valid ID and sign an affidavit of acceptance of prize. Winners will be required to appear in the Philippine Daily Inquirer Head Office, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Blanchard sts., Makati City, Philippines for the photo shoot and turnover of prize. Winners will be responsible for the payment of all taxes and fees due on the prize.
6. Prizes are subject to withholding taxes and other applicable fees.
7. Winners must agree to have their name and photo published in the newspaper or announced in any media in connection with the promo without any additional compensation.
8. In case of dispute, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's decision shall be final.
9. All employees of PCI, their relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and of its advertising agency, are not allowed to participate in the promo.

*Applicable taxes and processing fee shall be for the account of the winner. Prizes may be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer – Makati City Office only.

Join to win. Be an Inquirer.

INQUIRER

Beyond 'budbud'

From page C1

pulque, cajeta egg, gata for coconut cream, binal for a kind of pale Asian) and pigeon for salted mirasol dilis (anchovy). Two connoisseurs used the scientific names of the main ingredients, which puzzled us first until I saw that adanyon malangine was eggplant and sardinetta was a kind of crab.

In competitions, learning is always two-way. Contestant cooks were told years in advance their procedures while organizers learn a thing or two about refining notes from the judges (they included Patricia Chionglo, vice president at Air Philippines, and Jessica Arida, proprietor of Dikta on Bonifacio in Ortigas).

The judges, in turn, learned new terms and ways of cooking. The two cuisine days also proved to be an excellent occasion for mpamasyal.

Here was a novelty for me. While the award went familiar, trailblazing a fermented product such as rice with shrimps or mangoes in a pickling solution, what looked like fresh fish was pointed out as the hero.

The cook from Buong municipality said the fish was packed in salt and left that way, some for as long as a year. You couldn't tell from the way it looked. The trick is to wash it several times before using and, for the contest, it was cooked in coconut milk.

Preference

Coconut milk and cream were used by most of the contestants, indicating the cooking preference of the province. And if they used chicken, it was the native variety, tastier but tougher and so needed time to cook through simmering.

The other preference was the use of charcoal or wood to cook the food. When a contestant was asked if that contributed to the taste and smell of the cooking, she said it was only because food cooked faster that way.

For someone who knows only how to cook with liquefied petroleum gas and electricity, that was a surprise.

The first-prize winner was Spicy Cecilio Ara from Sibalan town. My hosts said the town's area known for its land crab that could be caught in the shoreline so the townsfolk didn't even have to buy their special ingredients.

The cook-off was in season during the competition. It was cooked by any person in desiccated, minced, mixed with leeks, onions, garlic, bell pepper, horseradish (mostly), ginger, salt and sugar.

The crab meat was set aside to the cure pace and placed in banana leaves then tied. The greens were steamed on a bed of lemon grass with baba juice and coconut milk added to the last minute.

Another information that was important was that the crab connection was eaten with either unwax-gabi or saba.

Second prize went to the municipality of Bacong for its steamed chicken in coconut milk. Third was the guinataang pangpan from the Anahan municipality.

The three top places proved to the other contestants that time and effort should be spent on the cooking rather than the presentation. In any cooking competition, taste counts for a lot.

LAND cook from Sibalan town

LIFESTYLE

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

a world to discover

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

The real chocolate for churros and 'ensaymada'

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS AND I NEED help. I usually serve ensaymada with hot chocolate. I want to serve mine this year with chocolate but the real thick kind, like the ones for churros. What brand can I use?
MILDRED

If you ask me, the best brand is Valor chocolate from Spain. It's the real thing that goes perfectly well with ensaymada and, of course, churros.

It's quite simple to use. Boil milk in pan and add the chocolate. Keep adding until you're quite happy with the consistency. Mix well and serve. The recommended quantity of chocolate is at least 40 g per cup. I put a bit more for extra thickness.

Valor is available at Rustan's Pedro or at their Makati branch. Call 5585735.

And since it's Christmastime, here's a churros recipe that might just come in handy since you already have chocolate. Valor!

Churros

2 c water
1 c butter
½ liquid
2 c all-purpose flour
4 eggs
sugar, for dusting

In a saucepan bring water, butter and salt to a boil. Add flour gradually, whisking well. Add salt. Allow mixture to cool down slightly by stirring. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Put mixture in a churros or in a bag with a huge star tip.

Press churros onto a pan with hot oil and deep-fry until golden. Dust with sugar and serve with hot chocolate.

Right brew

What is the best way to make brewed coffee? Mine seems to be either too strong or too mild. What could be wrong? In other people's homes, it tastes great and rich! Please help.
ARIYOKO

The solution is simple, Ariyoko—drink coffee in other people's homes! Things are always better and greener on the other side of the fence, as we'd notice...

These tips should stop you from being a victim of the other side of the fence syndrome. Enjoy your next cup!

- When buying coffee, remember that a **combination of two or more types of beans** produces richer brew.
- **Whenever possible** buy your beans whole and grind only the required amount before making your cup of coffee. If this is too much trouble, store your ground coffee in a container **with as little air space between the lid** and the surface of your coffee. Make sure, too, that **the container is as airtight as could be**. Remember, the biggest enemy of coffee is air.
- Some people suggest putting coffee in the refrigerator or the freezer. I don't know if I agree. I would rather store mine in a cool and dry place, away from heat.
- Generally, the finer you grind your beans, the fuller the flavor.
- Another thing that we went to take for granted is the need for a perfectly clean coffee-making system. Residues of any-more-than-coffee past will affect the flavor of your next cup. The oil and the bits of old coffee beans create bitterness and even rancidity.
- Remember that water plays a vital role in your brew. **The more pristine the water, the** more delicious the brew. So, if using tap water and it's brownie-thirsty day that's exactly the flavor of your coffee. If this does happen to you, call it Sumatra Brew. Suddenly, it sounds sexy!
- The proper measure for a full rounded cup

a two level tablespoons of coffee to ½ cup of water.

- Do not leave your coffee in the pot for too long. It is best consumed in 15 minutes or less. If you want to keep it tasting fresh longer, transfer it to a thermos.
- And if your neighbor became too bor-

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BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

NUTS — BY KATHY MACDONNELL

LOVEBONITE — BY ELIZABETH CHOMICKI

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LIRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANLILIO

BIRD MACHINE — BY HANS ABREN

MANOBOSHOE — BY JOHNJO TUJOO

TULOON — BY PAPI LAND TATUN PALAMBLANG

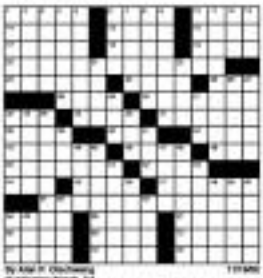
SALAMIN — DARWIN BAEZ

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bakers
6 "Ferris" star
10 Not quite (prefix)
14 Shellfish
15 Ms. Lupino
16 Serena Dio
17 BBQ and picnic
18 Tagore classic
19 Pitching coach
20 "Giant of Mythical Athens" poem
22 Wimbledon game
23 Small candies
24 Fifty, to Caesar
25 Traditional saying
26 Hollywood horse
27 Actress, e.g.
28 Beaux or Lalors
29 Part 2 of quote
30 Richard Nanninga
40 Peppermint Patty's pal
42 Part 1 of quote
43 Lab procedure
44 Common sound
45 Baseball reference
46 Lieutenant
47 Lifting gear
48 Very ill (Vichy)
49 Perfect time?
50 Act of quote
54 Sly serving
56 ACME's plan
57 Plumber's item
58 Small salamanders
60 Philosopher Protagoras
61 Bread or cake
62 Tend
63 Cooked, for one
64 Sushi selection
65 Inflated estimate

DOWN
1 Flummoxed
2 Young cow
3 Like the right angle
4 Chippewa soldier
5 Little goat
6 Jot
7 Lyric-filled melodies
8 Spanish year
9 Cincinnati
21 Baker Hotel name
22 Heightened
28 Trivia and facts
31 Be suitable for
32 Fish-house waters
33 Tells
34 Comedian and actor
35 A/V R.C.
36 Afternoon treats
39 Bikini, e.g.
40 Mountaineer
41 e.g.
50 Tiki inc.
51 Diffs' word
52 Lavatory currency
53 Prefix with atom
57 Historical period
58 "Cross" composer Bach
59 Greatest flaw
61 Goat's cry/another
62 "Inferno" author

By Allan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, Ind.



Washington's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

THIS WEEK TODAY: You underestimate authority and you know how to use it to work with it. Private family questions, holidays, and travel are favored now. You have the "know how" and because you have others with people follow your cues. It's important for you to find a life partner. In the year ahead, you will wrap up something so that you can move on to something new.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			8	9		3	7	
				5	3		4	1
						2		5
1							8	
9	5						6	2
	6							9
7		5						
4	8		7	2				
	1	3		6	8			

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	4	2	3	9	8	1	5	6
9	1	6	2	5	5	3	4	7
5	3	8	6	1	7	4	2	9
3	9	4	5	8	2	6	7	1
1	8	5	9	6	4	7	9	3
2	6	7	9	3	1	5	8	4
4	2	9	7	4	5	8	1	3
6	7	3	8	1	9	4	2	5
8	5	1	4	2	3	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Senior citizen discount is not optional

By Linda Bolido

A FEW MONTHS AGO, THIS COLUMN received a query from Ben Bake about discounts for credit card purchases of senior citizens.

He said his wife accompanied his mother to buying some prescription medicines for the older person in two branches of a drugstore chain in Mandaluyong City. His wife used her credit card and presented her mother's senior citizen card issued by the city government.

But mother and daughter were reportedly told by the salespeople of both branches that the 20-percent discount for senior citizens did not apply to purchases using credit card. They reportedly said it was difficult to collect payments from credit card issuers so they did not give discounts anymore.

Bake then wrote to ask how such credit card companies, if in effect penalized the senior citizens by not giving the discount. Bake's wife paid the full amount of P4,000 with her credit card.

Bake said his wife still probably (he forgot to leave her) Joseph A. Santiago of Citizenbalance his taken note of the problem and reminded establishments that seniors are entitled to the discount even if they use credit cards.

Santiago has urged the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Trade and Industry to require all business establishments and service providers "to grant seniors the 20-percent discount lawfully due them, even if they pay via credit card."

Mandatory

The representative said establishments should be made to understand that under "the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, the entitlement to the mandatory discount on certain services and purchases is absolute, and does not discriminate against seniors paying through credit card."

THE CONSUMER

He said DSWD and DTI could amend the law's implementing rules and regulations to indicate clearly that "the wording and penalties of a statement of credit-using seniors" were forbidden.

Under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9257), violators of the senior citizen's discount and other privileges for seniors face on stand to be fined prior to prison plus a fine of P50,000 to P100,000 for the first offense.

Subsequent violations are punishable with two to six years in prison plus a fine of P100,000 to P500,000. The establishments' business permits, franchises or other similar privileges may also be cancelled.

Under the law, seniors who are at least 60 years old are entitled to a minimum 20-percent discount in hotels, restaurants, theaters, cinemas, concert halls, airlines, railroads and other similar places of culture, leisure, recreation and amusement.

They should also get a discount on purchases of medicines, and on medical and dental services, including diagnostic and laboratory fees as well as professional fees.

In addition, seniors are also entitled to the minimum discount on tickets for domestic air and sea travel, as well as in public railways, skyways and buses.

For inhabitants may claim the discounts as tax deduction on the net cost of the goods sold or services rendered. The cost of the discount is also allowed to prove income deduction for the taxable year when the discount is granted.

'Prompt' blues

I decided, since I have all these senior's anyway, to join the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Pasayo sa Buwis raffle. The newspaper advertisements said those were two ways to do it—you can send a simple entry description message to 4977 or multiple entries through 9778.

My single entries were successfully sent, then after collecting a bunch of receipts, I decided to send them all together to 9778.

The tell had specific instructions on the format for single entries but simply said the 9778 number should be used for multiple entries. So I followed the format for single entry by each of them to enter. I sent it right but.

It seems the computer of whatever received the messages are not programmed for it. I got the reply "Invalid entry—Too many parameters..."

Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. ext. (formerly part Hgts. St., Makati City, PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1207 Makati or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

CLASSES

Halal 'kabaka,' cakes & 'kakanin'

BAKE SCHOOL is offering a class on "Double-layer-style Halal Kabaka." Tue, 6—9 a.m. Min. 10. Advanced baking; a hands-on expert. Actual on "Cake Decorating" will be conducted 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Min. 10 and 20. Starts 8 a.m./1 p.m. of Nov. 20. Also has a will be on the making of kakanin in Kamayan with its site to be offered Nov. 28. Basic cooking tips and techniques will be covered in Basic cooking 1, 9 a.m.—2 p.m. Min. 20—24. Visit the Bibya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 89 Libis St. Bibya Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921181 or 8925081 local 108. E-mail info@bibyakitchen.com or log on to www.ph.

Cheese-y cooking

The Beagle Baking School of Culinary Arts will offer the following classes:

Nov. 13: Parmesan (all menu)—Salad of Mixed Mushrooms with Parmigiano Cream Dressing; Hearty Risotto and Sautéed Asparagus with Parmesan Crisps; Assorted Cheese Platter with Homemade Mushroom Ravioli. To do list: Parmesan Apple Pie.

Nov. 15: Baby for the Party Blizzard! This Ultimate Thanksgiving Meal—"Turducken" (all menu)—Turkey Stuffed with Duck, Duck Stuffed with Chicken; Duck to-dudes stuffing; gravies and sides.

Nov. 20: Chicken up (Menu 1 (all menu)—Steamed Egg Custard with Pork Bun; Delicious Shrimp Siomai with Japanese Soy Mayo; a Grand Menu Siomai; Steamed Red Pot with Homemade Noodles; Pork Ribs; Siopao. Made and Customized; served with Chinese Sausage Feta; Tea-Steamed Marinated Chicken with Fresh Herbs in Rotisserie; spicy with; Brown Tea Ice Cream.

Nov. 22: Nothing Could Be Better than Pot to Pot—Robust Hearty family-style Stews (all menu). Good for the Holidays, all served with condiments. Pot au Feu of Rib Eye, Oxtail and Short Ribs; Chicken Pot au Feu, Potau Feu of Lamb, Pork and Beef Stew (green salad and dinner).

Pending concerns about—Cooking for Beginners (Tuesday-Saturday); Cooking Series; Entrepreneurship for the Individual. Call 8925081, 8918888 or 7251941.

HERSHEY'S HAPPINESS
Photo Contest
Vote for your favorite Hershey's Happiness Photo!

BABIES TO KIDS
A Mandy Calvo, Laguna City
Title: "Hershey Boys"
B Christian Paul De Guzman, Pangasinan
Title: "Huddlebry loves Hershey's"
C Richel Bacor, Iligan City
Title: "She Hershey's Delight"

TEENAGER
D Michelle Javier, Caloocan City
Title: "Sweet Angel"
E Dominic Cervasio, Quezon City
Title: "The Hershey's League"
F Rosales Lopez, Pasay City
Title: "Friends"

FAMILY
G Charlotte Rio, Caloocan City
Title: "Sweet Family"
H Angelo Gomez, Caloocan City
Title: "Mom's Delight"
I Antonio Rubio Jr., Iloilo City
Title: "Hershey's Kiss Family"

COUPLES
J Ireberto San Jose, Pasay City
Title: "Sharing Sweet Moments"
K Ramos Fuentes, Mandaluyong City
Title: "Best Friends"
L Sheryl Valencia, Marikina City
Title: "Morning Kisses"

SOLO
M JC Cortes, Parañaque City
Title: "Little Spirit of Color"
N Alexander Lim, Quezon City
Title: "My Symphony"
O Christine White, Angeles City
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On the Swiss sausage trail

By Rosa Daza
Contributor

LAST MONTH, A WOMAN friend planned to from Miami, the Florida city made famous by Don Johnson in the television series "Miami Vice," by a Pinoy who was reported to honey been involved in the murder of Italian designer Gianni Versace, by the beach Beach Diner and by that refreshing Cuban drink, Mojito! (Oh!)

After picking her up at the airport, we went directly to her folks' place, which is beside the houses of her aunts other sisters.

So is the tradition in Pinoy homes when there is a special occasion and relatives are together, they served us kinds of dishes. The previous hostess said, "Inang, kumakain ka ba nito a EGGS? Oo naman. Libre yan 'di ba?) "Hoy hang ka. Alaxan yo dyan." (Talaga? Pwede ko bang ilutas yung isang buwan na mga lamin chops at prime ribs?)

My friend and I were talking when one of her younger sisters gave me a plate of spicy, fried-looking, semi-Hungarian sausages, veal bratwurst, schublig and Italian sausage, with dollops of my favorite Dijon mustard, hot and crusty French bread and some Cuban

PROCESSED vegetables

Edmundo Medel from Australia. (Yum, yummy!)

After tasting the delectable, juicy mouthwatering, killer or killing or killing or killing Hungarian sausages, I readily forgot my entire diet for the past 22 years of mangos and adobong kangkong — even if only for a brief moment.

"Wow, sarap! Libre pa! From where do you import these?"

And that was my introduction to Swiss Deli Foods, and the new Swiss Deli & Bistro at Pioneer and Sheridan streets in Mandaluyong City. Beautiful diners. Tasty dishes. Big servings. And very reasonable prices! Sobrang cheap!

Must-try

I tried the Bistro's Raclette, a Swiss specialty and one of my favorite dishes (anything with cheese). For those who love cheese, I recommend this dish. It is melted Swiss cashew cheese served with boiled potatoes, pickled onions and cornichons (or ghe kins).

After being served a platter of different kinds of preserved meat in a friend's home, I just had to find their source

Swiss Deli Foods is a Metro Manila-based food processing and deli distribution company using Swiss/European-style butchery and making products like hams, sausages, bacon, cold cuts and other smoked and air-dried meats. It also has vegetables and seafoods.

The shop [tel. 535-9622] sells wholesale and retail. It is operated by Polly Guggenheim, who is Swiss, and his Filipino wife Lina, a University of the Philippines Diliman, Restaurant and Institutional Management faculty member. Both are, I must admit, very knowledgeable in the field.

The Guggenheims serve schnitzels in a Swiss-hotel school and have been customers since for 23 years. They live here.

Aside from my favorite Hungarian sausage, I tried the deli's bratwurst (like pepperoni sausage, garlic sausage, veal bratwurst, bachelor sausage, cabanossi, Cervelat, and many more.

The place is also known for its smoked bacon, smoked farmers ham, pastrami, smoked pork loin, chicken ham and sandwich ham, not to mention cooked salami, Spanish chorizo and assorted salchichas.

The servings in the bistro are generous and prices, reasonable.

What I like about Swiss Deli products is they are not only delicious but also made from all-natural ingredients. The health food-conscious-savvy mouth the absence of artificial coloring agents and preservatives in the products. They are also hygienically and conveniently vacuum packed.

Swiss Deli products are available in leading supermarkets in Metro Manila like Shoppesite, Rustan's, SM, Robinsons, and Pioneer. Bets count they will be available in Market! Market! and S&R at The Fort. And maybe all over Asia soon? #Bucksaway!

Swiss Deli and Bistro at Pioneer corner Sheridan St. in Mandaluyong is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

PROCESSED meat

The real chocolate...

From page D3

pitable after days of serving you coffee, try that place in Pioneer's Market called Bodo's. It sells coffee for P50 a cup. Had had at old Sumpie their native blends from Batangas, Cavite and the Cordilleras. It's in the vegetable section.

Shellfish

How do I choose shellfish and clams? I sometimes get them when they are starting to smell.
E. PALCES

Great question! As mentioned (but fish, shellfish and seafoods should smell of the sea. Do not confuse the phrase "smell of the sea" with rotting!

Clams — As soon as possible, get them alive. You must see them spitting. Avoid cooked shells. To keep clams alive before you are ready to eat them, put them in water with ½ tsp salt, mix well, add clams and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator. This is the safest way to keep your clams.

Shrimps — Get shelled ones that are firm, shiny, moist and translucent. Beware of those that smell of ammonia. Once you've peeled the shrimps, do not discard the peel and the head. Instead, sauté them in butter and use the butter in sauces or as a base for a seafood sauce. Or you may pound them in a mortar, adding a bit of water, and strain. Use this shrimp water to flavor your rice vegetables when steaming or stir-frying. It gives out a wonderful flavor.

(To be continued...)

E-mail the author at rosajean@inquirer.com.ph

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Zulueta G. Velarde

THIS celebrity couple loves pitching on panoches and feasting on Asian dishes

Juday and Ryan cook up a storm

By Reuyal San Diego Jr.

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 32ND METRO Manila Film Festival, Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo looked every inch the future bride and groom as they parried questions about the rumored impending nuptials.

Naturally, since they were in the thick of promoting Jose Javier Reyes' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," Star Cinema's MMFF entry.

Ryan recalled, laughing, "When we shot the wedding scene, I asked Direk, Are you sure the celebrant is not a real priest?' He said he also made certain that the marriage ceremony they signed in the scene was fake.

Not that he was having cold feet.

"We don't want to turn [our wedding] into a media event," Juday clarified.

What was important, they said, was that they know the real score between them.

Juday described his partner: "She is very welcoming. It's rare to find someone who gives you unconditional support."

In fact, Juday backs up Ryan's "second" career as photographer: "I test all my new photography

JOURNEY TO

Tom Kat weekend wedding

ROME—HOLLYwood superstar Tom Cruise was in Rome on Monday ahead of his weekend wedding to actress Katie Holmes at a 15th-century castle on Lake Bracciano. To flow in from California aboard a private jet with an entourage of 14 people, airport sources said.

Cruise, 44, and Holmes, 27, will tie the knot Saturday at the Odescalchi Castle, about 20 kilometers outside Rome.

The couple announced their engagement in June 2005 in Paris. Their daughter Suri was born on April 18 in the United States.

It will be Holmes's first marriage and the third for Cruise, who was previously married to actresses Mimi Rogers and Nicole Kidman.

Odescalchi Castle has been the setting of celebrity weddings including that of star CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour to former US State Department spokesperson James Rubin. AFP

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MOVIE GUIDE

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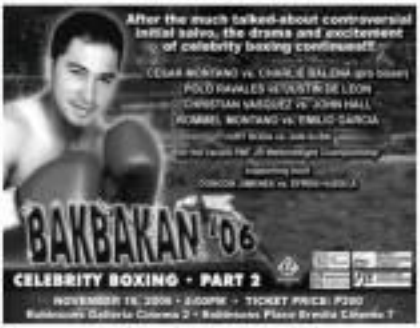

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ANGELINA JOLIE and co-star Dan Futterman above on board a train in Mumbai. At right, the actress and partner Brad Pitt get some ice cream for adopted daughter Zahara outside their Mumbai hotel. AFP PHOTO

Brangelina in Bombay

MUMBAI, INDIA—ACTRESS ANGELINA Jolie hogged some a crowded Mumbai commuter train Monday to film a scene for a movie about slain journalist Daniel Pearl, who lived and worked in India's financial and entertainment capitals.

Hollywood actor Dan Futterman portrays Pearl that Jolie plays his wife Mariane in the "A Mighty Heart" co-produced by Plan B, a production company founded by Brad Pitt and his ex-wife, actress Jennifer Aniston.

Jolie and Pitt, accompanied by their three children—Maddox, 5, 18-month-old Zahara and 3-month-old Shiloh Nouvel—arrived in Mumbai on Saturday from the western city Pune where they were shooting for a month.

Jolie, sporting a pale blue T-shirt and khaki trousers, stood in a queue to purchase a ticket. Then Jolie and Futterman, also casually dressed in jeans and a white shirt, boarded a train.

They were escorted by bodyguards who held back young onlookers yelling Jolie's name.

Almost scenes were also filmed of Jolie and Futterman walking near the Gateway of India, a popular tourist destination downtown.

Earlier over the weekend, Jolie and Pitt took their children sightseeing, leading newspapers published pictures of not-Shiloh perched on Pitt's shoulders and Jolie carrying daughter Zahara as they stopped on of their bizarre hotel on Sunday.

They visited a popular Mumbai restaurant where Pearl, also a musician, often played violin or mandolin with a group of friends. AP

Derek Ramsey is no model BF

A FRIEND(OYA) FRIEND RANTED to my column now about Derek Ramsey and Angelica Panganiban. She said, "Gerek didn't go to Iloilo to follow Angelica on her birthday. They flew together last Oct. 31 via Cebu, Mj. makeup artist was on the same flight. She even made chika with Derek and asked where his model girlfriend was. Derek just smiled."

In the modeling circuit, it's known that Derek's GF is a half-Pinoy, half-French mannequin named Solen. Does this mean that his status-close-ness to Angelica is all for show biz...one girl per circle-but for seven in? Wonder when Derek's heart is really directed at? Ooh la la! I'm sure the Frenchwoman in Solen would rather remain blind about Derek being linked to Angelica. You had a rough-after model like him is no model BF sports-nun.

'Rico boy' on the Rise

Another top model, Will Devaughn, may soon cry his luck in show biz. Now "rico boy" in his friends's eyes ad for McRico Burger is definitely not material.

Friend that when Will passed in "60 Star I," Allan K seemed to have the hots for him. He even bent for gown! PHEE-a black top-n-sexy mythe dress Kristine Preyers star after raves upendy for-ing with Will in Embassy II he were a runner of his fave Mcdo burger. Will's got everything in him!

Kahuli?

Could it be true that 6000 ? hugwigs were not too happy about the live guesting of Julius Magdangal and his BF Boboying Bunsoy in ABS-CBN's "Crbuzz" last Sunday? The couple's interview about their rumored marriage plans may have been one of the reasons that "2 Bars" dubbed "G-Files" again in the ratings. Does her "Boss" appearance signal Julius's resurrection ABS?

I missed last dad, Tito Jun, for the real score. His reply: "Ute has an exclusive contract with GMA but she has several projects [there]. For dedication, she is not leaving GMA. She's happy with them." Even if Julius is now a Kapuso, she spent her growing up years in the biz as a Kapamilya. It's really tough for stars like Julene who made the switch. Neither network wants a Kahuli.

RP 'Idol' album

Before the excitement of the first elimination night when you listen to the "Philippine Idol: The Final 12" CD (Sony BMG). It features the top 12-finalists' version of OPM hits such as Jeff Munro's "Ang Pe Lamang," Pure Charnet's "Hinahanap-hanap Kita" Lenaeen's "Pangako," Jan Nieto's "Tawag Ganyakan at Kapiling Ka" and their collective rendition of "Kahelehenge World," among others.

At the album launch, I saw Pete talking to a friend, advising, "Ayaw na ulit! Pinoinsanto nila eun! Ha!" He was in an all-black outfit—very New York. If I may say that she was wearing black shades and it was 7 p.m.! If Dulce's one thing the press hates, it's interviewing stars without seeing their eyes. Makes you wonder if you needa polygraph test first.

But during the competition, Wow showed no trace of anger (and in the remains a crowd favorite). True to form, guest judge Dulfina roared quite a stir as usual. He dissed the soulless—if Ruey Dingle wouldn't be offended more, he DJ Mel would wear a dress he a week? Poor Raul. He's out of the running already. Too bad also for DJ Mo, hairess. They won't get to see him in a killer dress. But if words could kill, these his radio shots must be down by Public Enemy No. 1!

Box Gees concert

Despite the advent of hip-hop, metal, rock and other music genres, the music of the Bee Gees is still very much in the mix in every layer of society. Most bands in this era of leisure music go for unimaginative covers. The Bee Gees have always written their own material. Hear "How Deep is Your Love?" "Staying Alive," "One Black Heaven" and more as Bobby Pinlac performs in "Bee Gees' Greatest Hits" live at the Big Dome on Nov. 25, 8 p.m. Call 3743333 or 9133333.

Double victory

Every time I look at Tita Emma Villa, I see the woman I want to be. Kudos to her for bagging the prestigious Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial award at the 115th anniversary of Maria Clara Awards (the original Famas) for her achievements in her office produces, star builder and job provider. She deserves that of the Night. Pitching tribute to a born beauty and a born giver!

E-mail: sassyinghalohang@yahoo.com

Totally Tata

By Bayard Sun Diego Jr.

THE MULTI-ABILBA SUPERSTAR Tina Young seems poised for world domination.

At age 11, the daughter of ex-singers Dan That couple hosted 3,500 others in a nationwide kiddie amateur singing contest. By 14, she had clinched a recording deal with Thailand's biggest show biz conglomerate. A year later, her debut album sold over a million units.

At 16, she headlined the Hollywood Palladium in a 1998 concert. The following year, she performed at the Hong Kong Handover ceremony, along with Lisa Stansfield and Wet Wet Wet.

In spite of the globe-trotting, she found the time to top-bill blockbuster movies at home.

"I Believe," her first English-language CD, sold almost a million units in Asia.

After only 14 years in the biz, the 25-year-old has sold over 12 million albums.

Her second English-language CD, "Temperature Rising" was recently launched by Sony-BMG in the Philippines, Thailand and Japan.

What makes your latest CD different from your previous work?

"I Believe" was more of a pop dance album, "Temperature" has more of a hip-hop vibe. I have in mind of 50 Cent and Jay-Z.

What is your fa-

Did You Know...

Cold feet

LAS VEGAS—ORDAINED to a former wedding in the Las Vegas Strip between Hollywood's hottest unmarried couple got cold feet.

Madame Tussauds mixed the plan to stage a departure of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt tying the knot after a impromptu-union for Pit protected, representatives for the actor and the star channels cold Monday.

"I personally found it a little odd that they were re-creating a wedding that never really happened," said Cindy Gaggard, Los Angeles-based spokeswoman for Pitt. "So Brad's representative, I found it disturbing." AP

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1 CASINO ROYALE • TKK
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 CASINO ROYALE
4 CASINO ROYALE
5 WAG KANG LILINGON
6 THE COVENANT
7 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
8 DUMARAS
9 THE MARINE
10 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS

ERMITA

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 THE MARINE
3 THE COVENANT
4 CASINO ROYALE
5 CASINO ROYALE
6 WAG KANG LILINGON
7 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

METRO EAST

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 CASINO ROYALE
4 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
5 CASINO ROYALE
6 THE COVENANT
7 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
8 WAG KANG LILINGON

NOVALICHES

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 CASINO ROYALE
5 THE COVENANT

CITISQUARE MALABON — PIONEER

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 WAG KANG LILINGON
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 THE COVENANT

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STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 THE PRESTIGE
1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 THE COVENANT
5 CAKE

DASMARINAS — ANGELES

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 THE COVENANT
1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

IMUS — STARMILLS

1 WAG KANG LILINGON
2 THE COVENANT
3 CASINO ROYALE
4 CASINO ROYALE
1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 FEAST
5 THE COVENANT
6 CAKE

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 CASINO ROYALE
2 CASINO ROYALE
3 WAG KANG LILINGON
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 THE COVENANT
1 CASINO ROYALE
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FEEDBACK

Mobile cinema

From: Josephyn Palaman (jos_tanglyn_boo.com), #135 Lipit Norte Mansilingan, Pangasinan

I am a student of Colegio de Dagupan. I just finished a feasibility study assessing what I would call a Super Mobile Cinema—a movie house inside an 18-wheeler truck. It would be very good for rural areas without movie houses. I have identified about seven possible locations here in Pangasinan alone. I hope people who could help make this movie lover's dream a reality will get to read this and contact a band. Thank you.

Juday & Ryan . . .

From page 01

guy on her," Ryan said.

In turn, he supports her endeavors, too. She Goldie Jam, a cake and pastry service, told recently in Juday's Café Corbata, during which he acted as auctioneer.

Graduating

Juday, who is graduating from Café Students Center for Asian Culinary Studies next month, often brings the children and pastries she whips up to school so the art of "Philippine Idol," of which Ryan is host.

"It is not difficult to host," said Anita. "When I ask him what he wants to see, he usually answers, 'surprise me,' 90 out of the time. I'm introverted nerves."

The two are partial to Asian cuisine: Japanese, Malaysian, Chinese—they're sushi-ic about it.

Unglamorous

On their most recent three-week US vacation, Ryan got a glimpse of Juday's unglamorous side.

"We did the laundry until five in the morning. It's a New Jersey hotel. That was something new for us," he recalled.

The US trip also allowed them to hang out with US-based relatives. "We spent some time with her father," he said.

It frequently asked questions is whether Ryan would ask Juday to quit since his also marrying.

"I don't think she would respect if I asked her to," he said. "She's free to choose. That is precisely why I am working so hard now, so she could have that choice."

Apart from "food," the two also have a new DVD/CD titled ABS-CBN. Juday released: "The song's working title is 'Tabodo.' All I know is of now is that it's about a girl and the different men in her life."

Men, as explored?

"Ang pinakagusto ko (I'm so heartsplit)," Juday giggled, as Ryan just quietly grinned.

The mouse that roared

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING movies on view in theaters this week is "School for Scoundrels." The film derives its unique hook from the premise that, in the modern urban jungle, most men are nice, and only a few dominant exceptions are bitch. The movie then proceeds to show how all those nice can be taught how to nice!

The protagonist in this story is a disgustingly lucrative parking attendant who is stopped on by practically everyone he works with or meets.

Sick and tired of being everybody's doormat, he signs up for an expensive course in "coaching," taught by an alpha dominant from trainer Billy Bob Thornton, whose giant assistant gets his kicks from sadistically reminding his hour students what absolute losers they are.

Confrontations

Despite the sadism that the seminar-workshop gets off on, the students slowly progress from nice to—well, not bitch, just yet—but, pushing-pullyou resistance somewhere in between.

Little by little, they summon up the psychological nerve to initiate confrontations with the bullies in their lives, ask beautiful, and heretofore, unattainable women out on dates, and generally take forcible charge of their lives.

The film's story has strong, empathetic appeal for viewers who themselves wish that they could take better charge of their own lives. If, as the movie's producers surmise, there are multitudes of "nice" out there who fill the bill, "School for Scoundrels" could turn out to be a sleeper hit!

The production's prospects for success are immensely boosted by the performances turned in by Thornton and the movie's other lead players. Thornton is the very real and man of gravelly-voiced and craggy-faced machismo, while the film's good-natured protagonists in the mundane lineup you ever did see.

Both gifted

Since they're both gifted thespians, however, they develop their characters further in their performances describe an arc that keeps them interesting, and sometimes even surprising.

To be sure, the movie has its weak elements. Its its "case study" format, which sometimes reduces it to a series of "for example" that soon tend to be predictable.

But the movie's satiric performances, script and direction help it earn those rough spots.

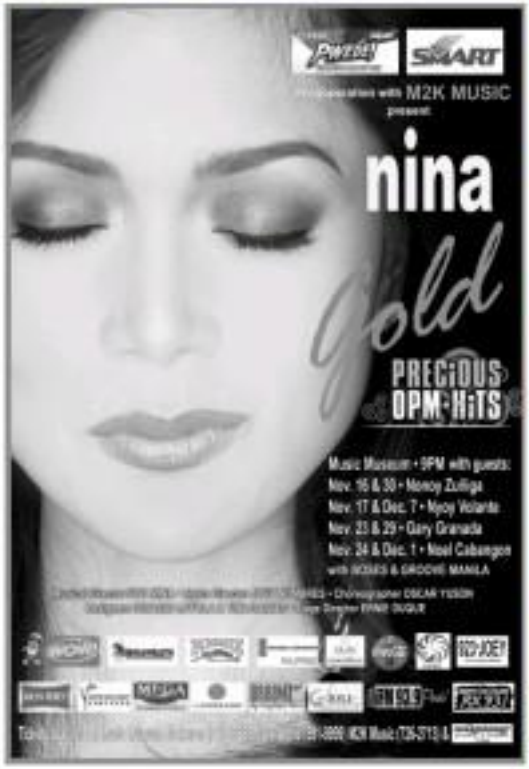
So, if you're a person who wants to vent, you could do yourself a favor—and give yourself a viewing treat—by enrolling in "School for Scoundrels," now touching at a theater near you.

FIRST PERSON

MATTHEW HEDDERICK, star of "Uncle Jhe Habit" and husband of Sarah Jessica Parker: "Our Christmases are very ordinary. I am half Jewish and half Catholic. I am not a big Catholic or a serious Christian person in terms of religion. But my wife loves all the traditions. We have a big day and presents."

GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Newsman superstar Jerry Yan (VP4, Eho Hing Sin ma ka ta TV actor/"Meteor Garden," is visiting the Philippines again in early December, this time as Asia's World Vision Child Sponsorship Ambassador. WV is one of the world's largest development, advocacy and relief organizations. In 2005, it helped over 100 million children in 96 countries. Here, Jerry's seen on his inaugural trip last month as WV ambassador, with young beneficiaries in Mangaldu. With Jerry's visit, WV hopes to find sponsors for 1,000 Filipino poor children.



ROUNDUP

Cancer awareness

"Code Pink: Living Well," Women Today's breast cancer awareness culminating activity, gathers advocates, health care experts, inspirational speakers, cancer survivors and entertainers in a show of commitment for the well-being of women.

The activity runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the Market! Market! Activity Center in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Marivel Bernardo, actress and cancer survivor, will receive the 2006 Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Foundation Award for her victory over breast cancer.

'Lake House' DVD

The Keanu Reeves-Sandra Bullock starrer "The Lake House" has been released on DVD by Warner Home Video.

In the poignant time-travel romance, an architect and a doctor discover a magical mailbox through which they communicate across time.

The DVD edition sells for P475 in wide screen, P375 in Full Frame formats.

'Inside' promo

National Geographic Channel debuts may get "inside" the NGC headquarters in Washington D.C. with NGC finds "Hitch and Win" promo by simply watching the "Inside" series.

Viewers can then log on to www.ngc.com and answer questions related to each of the episodes.

The series gives viewers a peek into the nooks of nearly pre-into organizing some of the world's biggest events.

The show airs Mondays at 9 p.m.

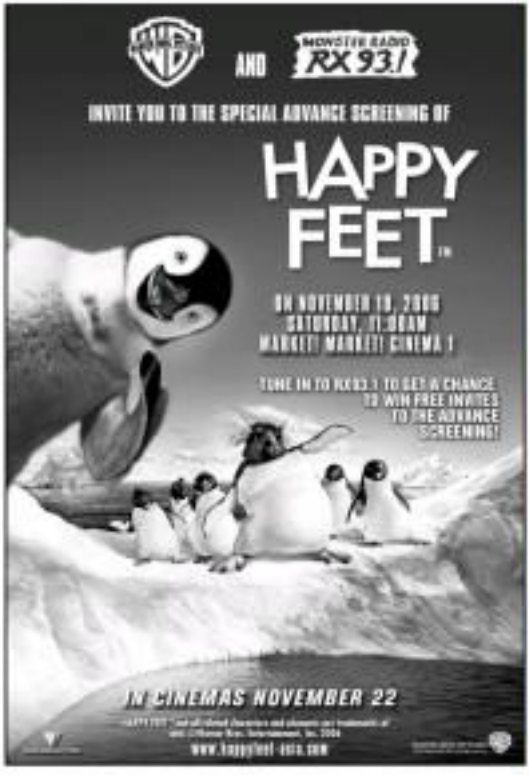
Teen dance contest

The ongoing Citra Teen Synergy Dance Competition '06 will culminate with a grand showdown on Dec. 17 at Market! Market!

The next elimination rounds for the competing teen dance groups will be on Nov. 18 at SM Southmall and Dec. 3 at SM Megamall.

Tree lighting

Ayala Center lights its Giant Christmas Tree on Nov. 18, 8 p.m. at the Ayala Triangle Gardens, near Glorietta 1 Market and Greenbelt Mall.

"'Tis The Season To Be Groovy: An Ayala Center Retro Holiday Special" will feature a retro musical featuring the sound of '70s pop icons Boogie.

Guests include Christian Bautista, Orange and Lemons, Joel Mendoza, Noel Cabangon, Tonee, John Prats and Maja Salvador.